Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-081 *27 April 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Cairo Negotiators Reportedly Make No Progress

Sides Agree To Continue Contacts

JN2604134695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Report by Hanadi al-'Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks held yesterday and today have not resulted in any progress because the Israeli delegation focused on general and technical issues, such as the number of Palestinian voters, rather than principal ones. We have learned from reliable sources that the Israeli delegation refused to discuss the participation of resident of Jerusalem in candidacy and elections.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides, however, agreed to hold several meetings in Palestine and Israel to solve the main differences. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, is still holding talks with Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, on some substantive issues.

Singer: Talks To End Weeks Before 1 Jul

TA2604171395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yo'el Singer, the chief Israeli delegate to the Cairo talks with the Palestinians, says Israel plans to conclude the negotiations several weeks before the target date of 1 July. Mr. Singer said after today's meeting that the Palestinians must be allowed sufficient time to prepare for the elections, and for that reason, the negotiations on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment should be concluded prior to that date.

'Urayqat Comments on Talks

NC2604195295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that no progress has been made during the 15th round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 'Urayqat, who headed the Palestinian side to the negotiations, said that we had expected to settle numerous points during this round, but that has not been the case. In a statement to reporters at the end of the round, he said that Israel continues to stall on implementing what we had already agreed upon regarding the elections within the framework of the Oslo Agreement.

Dr. 'Urayqat stressed that Israel's current failure to honor its pledges is inconsistent with the desire for peace, noting that Israel is behaving as if it is above the law. He noted that Israel does not want to comply with or sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He added: Regrettably, the United States sides with Israel in this strange stance. He said that if Israel really wants to establish peace, it must rid the region of weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that Israel continues to build settlements and still insists on not releasing the Palestinian detainees. He noted that the Israeli death squads hunt Palestinians in the West Bank. He added that Israel's practices in south Lebanon and its stalling of the negotiations with Syria indicate that it is not serious about the peace process. He noted that there is agreement between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on addressing the issue of redeployment of the Israeli forces in tandem with the discussions on the elections. He said that is why the meetings of the security committee assigned this task is not secret, as certain people claim. He noted that there are constant meetings between 'Uzi Dayan and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al- Yahya, but that it cannot be said that any progress has been made in the discussions of the redeployment of the Israeli forces.

Dr. 'Urayqat stressed that the Palestinian side considers that the number of the Palestinian council members is an internal Palestinian affair, adding: "We believe that there should be 100 Palestinian council members, but the Israeli side still rejects this proposal." He said: We are ready to hold elections within two months of an agreement with the Israelis. He noted that 6,000 people have been trained in supervising the elections process.

Dr. 'Urayqat emphasized that the main point of disagreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is the participation of the East Jerusalem population in the elections; while the Palestinian side insists on their participation, the Israeli side rejects it. He pointed out that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from two camps in the West Bank is part of routine Israeli movements and does not have any particular significance. He said that the redeployment of the Israeli forces must fall within the framework of the agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee will hold a meeting under Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning in the Palestinian Authority, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on 7 and 8 May to discuss the points of disagreement. He said that the round of negotiations that concluded in Cairo today only discussed the minor issue of conducting a census of the Palestinians in the Palestinian territories and those who are eligible to vote. He said that a date for the next round of talks will be set as part of the overall negotiations between the two parties.

Census To Precede Agreement on Elections

TA2704085595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 95 p A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first stage of elections in the territories will be a census of voters in the West Bank

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and the Gaza Strip to be conducted by Palestinian Authority [PA] personnel. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the talks on elections in Cairo decided that the census would be held as soon as an agreement is reached on the drafting of a voters' register and even before a general agreement is concluded on the elections.

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be divided into 1,500 voting areas. The census is scheduled to register all eligible voters and divide them according to these voting areas.

Another decision reached in the talks which ended in Cairo last night was to compile two lists in the census: one of Palestinians holding identity cards and another of people without identity cards, whom the Palestinians regard as eligible voters. The voting rights of Palestinians without identity cards will be decided jointly by Israel and the PA, so that Israel may have veto rights.

The Israeli delegation headed by Yo'el Singer rejected the Palestinians' request to extend the census to East Jerusalem. The Israelis argued that six municipal election campaigns had been held in Jerusalem since 1967 and that an orderly voters' register divided into voting areas already exists. It is still unclear what the status of residents of East Jerusalem who hold Israeli identity cards will be and whether they will be allowed to take part in the elections in the territories. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 27 April reports: "An official from the Palestinian Center for Statistics says 1.72 million residents of the territories will be eligible to vote in the elections for a Palestinian council. Hasan Abu-Libdah said the figure includes all residents of the territories over the age of 17, a condition set by the Palestinians. He based the figure on census data Israel gave the Palestinians in the framework of negotiations on the elections."]

Israeli Delegation Leaves

NC2604194395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation led by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, which participated in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, left Cairo for Israel this evening.

Islamic Affairs

Condemnation of Bosnian Serb Leaders 'Postive Step'

MM2604113495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Toward More Awareness and Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports have carried an initial decision issued by the tribunal investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia, considering Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and the commander of his militias Ratko Mladic as "war criminals.

If the world has given up all hope of achieving victory over the racism phenomenon "by a knockout," as they say in the language of sports, at least it can win on points.

The international community has this week scored an important point by including Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his policeman, General Ratko Mladic, on the initial war criminals list.

Based on previous experience, it is, of course, unlikely that people like Karadzic and Mladic will apologize public for what they have committed or cooperate honestly with the investigations conducted by the tribunal looking into the crimes in former Yugoslavia. It is too late even to expect political cooperation. It is impossible to get a human gesture from the Bosnian Serb leaders. What has been recorded by the various UN organs and agencies—namely cases of religious cleansing; crimes of starvation, murder, rape, sniping, home demolition; and the detention of thousands of innocent people in detention camps—is more than sufficient to bring war crime charges.

But regrettably, the policy is still the same, namely "the art of the possible." And the Serbs have succeeded in avoiding any practical step condemning or curbing their aggression, thanks to international and regional balances and the escalating hostility in numerous Western circles toward whatever is associated with Islam and Muslims.

However, the new positive step comes at a time favorable for reexamining the general facts. Because racism and religious or cultural enmity are two phenomena which recognize no borders. There is a big hope today that the "Oklahoma massacre" has awakened some of the sleeping politicians and media officials who have long assured themselves and their people that criminals come only from the Middle East and that fundamentalism exists only in Islam. Because a handful of racists exposed in one massacre in Oklahoma what the Islamic world could not expose for years, namely the racist criminal tendencies which are growing and spreading in the tunnels of darkness in most Western states.

The initial decision vis-a-vis Karadzic and Mladic remains so far just a win on points. However, we call on decisionmakers in the international community to continue the process of confronting the racism beast, whose evil is going to spread further unless we confront it firmly, responsibly, and courageously.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad: Armed Action 'Will Continue Unabated'

JN2604175495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Press release issued by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in "Palestine,"; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to the allegations of the limited self-rule authority on the Islamic Jihad Movement's willingness to negotiate over its armed action and halt it temporarily, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, made the following statement:

We reaffirm to our militant Palestinian people and Arab and Islamic nations that our armed jihad against the Zionist occupation is our raison d'etre. This jihad will continue unabated, no matter the difficulties, suffering, or sacrifice necessary. The next stage will witness an escalation in the quantity and quality of our military operations, particularly the martyrdom-seeking operations which show our unyielding and unnegotiable will. We seek to achieve a balance of terror [tawazun al-ru'b] with this enemy that is armed to the teeth and that receives U.S. and Western aid.

We also categorically refuse to hand over any piece of our weaponry, which will remain aimed at the occupation. This is the position of all members of the Islamic Jihad Movement, old and young, inside and outside the homeland. There is not a single person in the Islamic Jihad Movement who would negotiate over these constant principles. We also reject any political dialogue with the Oslo team. We call on our people to confront the arrest campaigns within the ranks of the strugglers and the unfair sentences passed against them by the so-called State Security Court. This court should be abolished and dissolved.

Finally, we ask Yasir 'Arafat to stop hounding the strugglers and to return to Tunisia so our people and strugglers can confront the occupation face to face away from the roadblocks of the self-rule authority. This authority has become a security tool in the hand of the enemy to watch over its security and settlements. This enemy wants to turn the Palestinian-Israeli conflict into a Palestinian- Palestinian conflict. We should avoid this black fate by stepping up jihad against the occupation.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement, the Central Media Bureau

Warns Gaza, Jericho Authorities on Pressure

LD2604191895 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Palestine's Islamic Jihad movement warned the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho on the ill consequences of exerting pressure on the movement's activists to hand over their weapons, an Islamic Jihad official said here on Wednesday [26 April].

"We will never submit to these pressures and we will continue our armed operations against the Zionists in and outside the occupied land with full strength," Head of the Islamic Jihad Bureau in Tehran, Abu-Jihad, said in a telephone call to IRNA.

The western media has launched a propaganda campaign for blackmailing the Islamic Jihad by falsely quoting the movement's officals in the occupied land as saying that the Islamic Jihad is ready to stop the armed struggle against the Zionist usurpers, Abu-Jihad said.

By this stratagem, he said, the western news agencies were trying to suggest that Islamic Jihad was moving towards the Oslo peace accord between Israel and Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Abu-Jihad said the propaganda staged with the help of the so-called self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho, is aimed at blackmailing the Islamic Jihad to suggest that some dialogue was going on between leaders of the movement and PLO chief, Yasir 'Arafat's faction.

The Islamic Jihad representative in Tehran denied any talks between leaders of the movement and the PLO in this regard. Talks are being held between officials of the Islamic Jihad and the PLO in order to secure the release of the movement's detained activists held in 'Arafat's jails, so as to avert a civil war, Abu-Jihad said.

He outlined the firm principles of the Islamic Jihad as rejection of the Oslo accord, refusal to hand over guns and continuation of armed operations until the occupying forces leave the Palestinian soil.

Abu-Jihad also warned the self-rule authority in Gaza of the consequences of arresting and imprisoning of Palestinian combatants.

The responsibility for any confrontation between the Islamic combatants and the Palestinian people will be lay with the so-called autonomous government in Gaza, he made it clear.

Jihad's 'Abd-al-Fattah Denies Agreement With PA

MM2604133795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Islamic Jihad Spokesman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have Not Reached Agreement With Palestinian Authority in Gaza, and We Will Not Suspend Military Action Before Settlements are Removed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A spokesman for Islamic Jihad in Palestine denied yesterday that his movement has reached an agreement with the Palestinian National Authority on conditions in the Gaza Strip. Tamim'Abd-al-Fattah, chief editor of the Jihad bulletin AL-MUJAHID, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his office in Damascus: "No agreement has been reached yet on the broad outlines. Any talk of an agreement is untrue. And we have heard nothing from the brothers in Gaza or anyone else to indicate that they have reached an agreement with the Authority."

'Abd-al-Fattah was responding to what al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, namely the

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Authority's agreement with the Jihad Movement "to eliminate the pretexts Israel is using to obstruct the implementation of the second part of the Oslo agreement, and to safeguard the Palestinian people's national interests."

'Abd-al-Fattah ruled out an agreement between Jihad and the Authority without Hamas. He said that that is out of the question. He confirmed that "contacts are continuing with the brothers in Hamas in order to study the positions." Asked whether Jihad objects to the formation of a joint negotiating delegation with Hamas, he said: "There is no objection at all. But so far there is no foundation for negotiations with the Authority on which to form a unified delegation with Hamas. All that is happening now is an attempt to feel the pulse."

'Abd-al-Fattah said that the "Authority's statements on an agreement with this or that party are an attempt by it to dilute the situation and give the impression that the Islamic movement (Jihad and Hamas) is adopting conflicting positions, hence exploiting this contradiction—which does not serve the Palestinian people's stability and security or ease the severity of the tension.

On current negotiations, the chief editor of AL-MUJAHID said that "all that is happening is that since the escalation of the arrest campaign there have been endeavors to secure the release of the detainees and to ease the severity of the tension in the strip. The Authority has not pledged to do anything. And our position remains fixed, has not changed, and rejects the handing over of arms or the suspension of military action in general." He added: "Our condition for suspending military action in the self-rule areas is for all Israeli Army units to withdraw from these areas and for the settlements to be dismantled."

In this context 'Abd-al-Fattah denied that Jihad Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi promised to give the Palestinian Authority a chance by suspending military operations in the self-rule areas until June—the date agreed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister for starting the Israeli Army's redeployment in the occupied West Bank in preparation for holding the legislative elections.

He said that "Dr. al-Shaqaqi did not say that. It was raised as one of the options in the field meetings held in Gaza. It was a qualified proposal, since the condition is to release prisoners, stop pursuing the mujahidin, and withdraw the disarmament decision." [passage omitted]

Hamas Condemns Authority Actions Against Newspaper

JN2604185995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 'Arafatist Preventive Security men have stormed the printing press of the AL-UMMAH newspaper and confiscated its equipment. Commenting on this incident, a responsible source within the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated the following:

Since it entered Gaza and Jericho, the limited self-rule authority has not stopped inundating our people with glittering slogans about its respect for democracy and freedoms. However, the practices of this authority so far confirm the falseness of these slogans. These practices are not related to democracy in any way. This is not to mention this authority's violations of Palestinian freedoms and human rights.

The source added: While condemning these practices and considering them a blatant attack on the freedom of the Palestinian press, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, presses on the hands of our people of those knights of the pen who believe in the justice of their people's cause and who side with the ambitions, aspirations, and rights of their people. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, also calls on the limited self-rule authority to immediately stop such provocative actions and rejected practices.

The source concluded: The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, appeals to all the sons of our people to oppose such practices by condemning and rejecting them boldly and bravely to preserve the national rights of our people and their sacred freedoms.

Hamas Leader on Dialogue With PA, Operations

TA2604175395 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, by Samir Hamtu; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hamtu] With regard to stopping military action, has Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] agreed in principle to this?

[Al-Zahhar] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions determine their own policy. Therefore, this question should be addressed to them. We talk about media affairs and the movement's political activities. The battalions talk to the street through their leaflets and statements. I have no answer to your question. The ones who determine the policy of whether to stop or implement are the battalions alone, not Hamas.

[Hamtu] This means that Hamas does not control the military wing and that the military wing is separate from the political wing.

[Al-Zahhar] Hamas has a political leadership and a military leadership. The two leaderships are separate. Hamas has control, but the political leadership has a role and the military leadership has a role.

[Hamtu] How can negotiations be conducted with the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions?

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[Al-Zahhar] There are a thousand ways to reach them. The newspaper pages are not the appropriate place.

[Hamtu] What is your response to the allegations that Hamas' activities are managed by foreign parties?

[Al-Zahhar] This is a contradictory statement, because if they mean by foreign parties Palestinians abroad—the sons of Hamas—then this conflicts with any claim of nationalism since there is no organization in the occupied territories, including Fatah, that does not have branches abroad. Fatah leaders are still present in many places, most prominently in Tunis. If it is wrong for contact to be held between Hamas inside and outside, that is a great shortcoming befalling all other organizations, including the Palestinian Authority [PA].

If they mean that there is foreign pressure and dictate, everyone knows that Hamas is not dependent on any Arab or international party. On the contrary, the PA is receiving funds from Western countries, under the title of donor states, who are giving their money without conditions. If there are contacts, then these are intensive contacts between the PA and the Arab states, whether those surrounding Palestine or elsewhere. Consequently, if we say that there is pressure, then this pressure and influence is on the PA rather than on Hamas.

[Hamtu] What message does Hamas wish to convey to the world by escalating military action in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Zahhar] This is a message that the world drew up in the Geneva Convention. We wish to remind the world that they said in Geneva that a person whose land has been occupied has the right to defend himself against the occupation. The occupation still exists everywhere in Palestine, even under the self-rule authority. The occupation exists on the borders, in the settlements that comprise 40 percent of the Strip's area, in the policy of starvation, and in the collaborators who are planted everywhere. The occupation exists in the joint patrols, and in the terrorist acts that it carries out against the homeland's noble people such as Hani 'Abid, Hatim Husan, and Kamal Kuhayl in Gaza and Jabr Yaghi in Jericho. Therefore, it is our right to defend ourselves. When the occupation ends, our resistance will end.

This is the message which the world should remember, because it is no longer remembering the human rights resolutions that it adopted other than those which serve its interests.

[Hamtu] One notes that as soon as a breakthrough in a certain crisis becomes imminent or as soon as the PA reaches an agreement with Israel, a military action takes place. What is the aim of Hamas in this?

[Al-Zahhar] First, let us start from the Madrid conference. They told us in Madrid they can give the Palestinians part of their rights. The talks continued until the 10th round. The result was that when Shamir lost the elections he said that he was planning for 10 years of negotiations.

Second, what is preventing Israel from implementing its agreements and withdrawing its forces from the settlements, opening the safe passages, and redeploying—as it says—in the West Bank? What is preventing it?

[Hamtu] The deteriorating security situation.

[Al-Zahhar] What security situation?

[Hamtu] The military operations.

[Al-Zahhar] Are there operations in Janin and Ramallah? No. Then why does Israel not implement the agreements and withdraw. The security pretexts are baseless. The PA is totally convinced that Israel does not want to give it anything more than Gaza. Gaza has been turned into a large prison in which people are supposed to kill one another. There are no military acts in Janin. Let them pull out of there.

[Hamtu] But the Israelis withdrew from Gaza and military action is continuing despite the PA's presence. This induces them to hesitate in pulling out from other areas because of the Gaza experience.

[Al-Zahhar] Military acts are taking place in Gaza because they have not pulled out. When they withdraw, against whom will the acts take place?

[Hamtu] The Palestinian people are suffering from a bad economic situation that is becoming worse because of the military operations that are followed by a security blockade and closure. What is your response and who is responsible for this?

[Al-Zahhar] The PA alone is responsible. Why did the PA, through its agreements, accept to be linked with Israel? Why did it allow Israel to be present at the crossings and on the borders between it, Egypt, and Jordan? If there had been an open border between Gaza and Egypt, there would have been trade exchange by which we could have imported and exported. If there had been a just agreement, we could have imported from and exported to the whole Gulf region through Jordan via Jericho. Consequently, the economic agreements signed by the PA are responsible for this problem. Moreover, the PA has contacts with the Arab and Western worlds. For example, why do the donor states provide police vehicles and military equipment instead of foodstuffs? Why does the PA not establish an open economy with the West for commercial purposes? Why did we establish economic, commercial, and tax links with Israel in the first place? Who is responsible for this problem? The PA must provide economic and financial incomes for people. Israel knew in advance that it would use the crossings for economic restrictions in order to impose a political reality. [passage omitted]

[Hamtu] How far has the dialogue between you and the PA, as well as the reconciliation efforts, progressed? Do you expect to reach agreement shortly?

[Al-Zahhar] We are trying our utmost and hope that there will be no discord. As I said at the seminar held by

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the Ministry of Information, the Palestinian political minds should find a formula and reconcile the demands, requirements, and convictions of all the parties.

[Hamtu] An observer sees now that some figures associated with Hamas are launching personal initiatives for a dialogue with the PA. Other voices are calling for signing a truce with Israel. What does this prove? Are there splits within the ranks of Hamas? And does this strengthen the view that there is a moderate trend and a radical trend?

[Al-Zahhar] The statement that there is a moderate trend and a radical trend is absurd, because Hamas is a very hard nucleus. This does not mean, however, that one is forbidden from launching a personal initiative. Every person can speak as he wishes to the media and the press and in the mosques, and can express his viewpoint. The movement, however, has a leadership that represents everyone and expresses its positions. Consequently, an initiative here or a statement there should not lead one to believe that there is a moderate trend, a radical trend, or a split. This is something that absolutely does not exist.

[Hamtu] The PA has set commitment to the Oslo accord as a condition for conducting a dialogue with you. Other parties have sufficed with respecting the accord only. What is your stance on the two issues?

[Al-Zahhar] We do not see any difference between respect and commitment. If you respect something, that means you are committed to it. When you commit yourself against your conviction you do not represent yourself. What is meant by respect? When the PA signed, it did not consult anyone from the opposition nor the people. When it signed in the name of the PLO, all factions, with the exception of Fatah, disagreed. At present, half of the Fatah leadership abroad is opposed to the implementation of this accord. The claim that the PLO signed on behalf of the Palestinian people and with their backing is something that does not enjoy the Palestinian street's support, nor the support of half of Fatah and half of the PLO Executive Committee. Consequently, the claim that all the Palestinian people should adhere to the accord is unacceptable, because basically the Palestinian street did not agree to this matter.

[Hamtu] Do you in the Hamas leadership differentiate between the Oslo accord and the PA, and what is your stance on recognition of the PA?

[Al-Zahhar] We have said frankly before the world that we wish to have an authority, but not domination. We rejected and resisted the British domination and resisted the Israeli domination. We wish to have an authority that respects its decisions and defends us; that represents all the people, not just a certain group. If the objective is Fatah's domination over the Palestinian street, that is something we reject. If it is the Palestinian people's domination of the Palestinian people, we welcome that.

[Hamtu] Do you believe that the Palestinians will reach the stage of internecine killings, and what measures should be taken to prevent that?

[Al-Zahhar] I hope that we will not reach this stage. Following the murder of Yasri al-Hums, the events of Filastin Square, and the al-Shaykh Radwan massacre perpetrated by Israel and its agents, we made every effort to avoid such a situation. This is our role and we will fulfill it in order to prevent the Palestinian people from engaging in internecine killings.

PA Court Jails PFLP Member for First Time

NC2604203795 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 26 (AFP)—A Palestinian military court has jailed for the first time a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the PLO faction opposed to the autonomy accord said Wednesday [26 April].

The PFLP said 'Awni Muhammad Kafarinah was beaten, presented to the state security court on Monday, within 24 hours of his arrest, and sentenced to one year in prison.

"The PFLP is concerned by the state security court's night sessions, its rapid and harsh sentencing with no time for proper defense," it said in a statement.

Attorney General Khalid al-Qidrah refused to comment and police and intelligence sources were unavailable.

Kafarinah's jailing would mark the first time the security court had sentenced a Palestinian without links to an Islamic fundamentalist organization.

Established by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to try cases endangering state security, the court has convicted 11 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad to up to 25 years in jail.

The trials began after a Palestinian police crackdown following the killing of seven Israelis and an American in an Islamic suicide bombing in Gaza on April 9.

Muhammad Dahman, a spokesman for the PFLP, said Kafarinah was detained after police forced confessions out of four boys, aged 14 to 15, who had apparently been caught with crude, home-made explosives.

"They were forced to admit that Kafarinah, a neighbor, was their leader," Dahman said. "There are many conflicting stories about how and why he was arrested, but the charges were built on nothing serious."

Two of the boys were still held, he said.

Kafarinah's family had not been officially notified of the verdict, and had found out through indirect means, according to Dahman.

In previous cases, the military court held brief, closed sessions at night.

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Abu-Rudaynah on Israeli Plan To Evacuate Bases

JN2604144495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has termed the Israeli Army's plan to evacuate three military training camps in the West Bank an insufficient step. He added that this should be followed by major steps and a withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had told the Israeli Cabinet that the Israeli Army was currently evacuating three training bases in the occupied West Bank. Israeli radios quoted Rabin as saying that the Israeli military bases include huge training camps near the Bet El settlement north of the city of Ramallah.

Rabin's government today discussed ways of financing the movement of these bases to the Green Line. Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that the evacuation of the camps and the opening of new roads would cost huge amounts of money.

In accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Palestinian territories should have been redeployed in July of last year.

'Urayqat on Cairo Talks, Reported Israeli Camps Evacuation

JN2604191395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations on elections, stated at the end of today's negotiations with Israel that the negotiations dealt with verifying the Israeli lists of Palestinian residents in the West Bank. On Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat's statements at the conclusion of today's round of negotiations in Cairo, our correspondent in Cairo Hanadi al-Imam has the following the dispatch:

[Begin al-Imam recording] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation, held a news conference in which he said that the Palestinian delegation expected many issues to be settled. However, he said, this has not happened. Discussions were focused on the statistics on Palestinian voters to verify the lists of residents presented by Israel.

On the peace process as a whole, 'Urayqat said that the trend inside Israel's decisionmaking quarters does not indicate the possibility of arriving at an agreement before 1 July. Supported by the United States, he said, Israel is behaving as a state above the law without any obligations to honor. Noting that Israel has not committed itself to anything it signed with Arab parties, 'Urayqat expressed fears that Israel may later announce that there are no sacred dates. 'Urayqat said that he does not believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that three Israeli training camps will be moved from the West Bank to Israel has anything to do with Israeli redeployment in the West Bank. He said that Israel has been doing this every year for 27 years.

On the possibility of arriving at an agreement on elections in isolation from the interim phase agreement, as stated by Yo'el Singer, the chief Israeli delegate, 'Urayqat said that no agreements on elections have been signed because the elections committee is one of the committees negotiating the interim phase agreement.

In a separate development, 6,000 teachers will start receiving training on Friday to supervise 1,500 ballot boxes. After the training, an announcement will be made declaring the end of domestic Palestinian preparations for holding the elections. 'Urayqat said that Palestinian constituencies have been distributed on the basis that the legislative council will include 100 members. However, Israel has not given its approval yet regarding the number of the legislative council. [end recording]

'Arafat Receives U.S. Congressman, Delegation

JN2604195395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received at the Gaza Presidential Office today U.S. Congressman Gary Ackerman. The meeting was attended by U.S. Consul General Abington. Discussions dealt with the latest developments in the peace process and the serious dimensions of the Israeli security and economic siege against the Palestinian territories. The meeting was attended by Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Aby-Middyan.

President Yasir 'Arafat also received a delegation from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front under Fadl Tahbub, member of the political bureau. The delegation stressed the need to maintain and support the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which is the first step toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The delegation voiced support for the way the PNA is addressing national and political issues. It stressed the need for maintaining national unity through democratic dialogue. The delegation called for giving the PNA a chance to implement the agreement and extend its authority to the West Bank. The delegation also discussed with President 'Arafat the latest political developments.

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Algeria

Mezrak Statement Clarifies AIS-FIS Relationship

MM2604114595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Salvation Army Defines Its Jurisdiction and Reaffirms Loyalty to Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Madani Mezrak, the "national amir" of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], has reaffirmed the "loyalty" of the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to the FIS leadership and emphasized that there are absolutely no differences between the political and military members of FIS.

In an undated statement, a copy of which was obtained yesterday by AL-HAYAH from reliable sources, Mezrak said that "all the fateful positions and decisions are adopted by the leadership represented by:

"1. Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj.

"2. The AIS represented by its national amir.

"3. The released shaykhs.

"4. The FIS Executive Committee abroad represented by Shaykh Rabeh Kebir."

This is the first time that the AIS has openly specified the authoritative leadership it follows. It is clear from the statement that Mezrak himself, in his capacity as the "national amir," has become an integral part of the FIS jurisdiction. Shaykh Madani and Shaykh Belhadj are known to have more than once refused to make any decisions while under house arrest, requesting that they should be allowed to consult with the "jihad wing" and with the FIS leadership in exile.

In his statement, carrying the number 3 and believed to have been issued three days ago, Mezrak said that the Algerian regime "got a severe shock and realized that it was beginning to collapse" when the AIS united under his leadership. He added that the Algerian authorities "spread rumors and propaganda through their media whenever they sense that something good for the Algerian Muslim people is happening. When physical forces fail to harm the leadership, they are left with psychological warfare." Mezrak seemed to be referring to the statements distributed in Algeria in his name and in the name of FIS officials and were later found to be forgeries.

Mezrak reaffirmed "the AIS' loyalty to its historic and legitimate leadership constantly abiding by the genuine line."

President's Office Holds Conference on Dialogue

LD2604143095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, director of the presidential office, held a news conference at the presidency which was devoted to the two issues of the national dialogue and the presidential elections. Colleague Hamza Wahib has just arrived to give us a summary of this news conference.

[Wahib] According to Mr. Ouyahia, three aims were behind the holding of this news conference: the continuous deepening of the transparency method in dealing with national issues, the state's recognition of the status of the national press in consecrating democracy in Algeria, and the third aim was connected with the important political events in which the country is living, that is, the national dialogue and the presidential elections.

According to the director of the presidential office, the national dialogue is a duty and a deep personal conviction for the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, for two reasons: first, the national crisis is a political crisis, and there is no solution for it outside the political solution; second, the reconciliation between the sons of Algeria. There is no escape from it, no matter how long it takes.

This dialogue, Ahmed Ouyahia said, allows for demonstrating wide support inside the political class and the civil society for the organization of the presidential elections as a means to strengthen the national concord without overlooking the national interest. This interest, Mr. Ouyahia added, should be above all considerations, because it is in the interest of the Algerian people.

According to Ouyahia, these elections contribute to resolving the current crisis. The election of the president, Mr. Ouyahia said, will increase the chances and potential for reaching the final solution to the crisis.

The elections, Mr Ouyahia said, is an extra phase for consecrating democracy, and promised to make the necessary conditions available for the holding of these elections in security, tranquillity, transparency, and respect for the people's choice.

Concerning the determination of the date for the elections, Mr. Ouyahia stressed that a governmental committee has been set up to attend to the preparation of the elections process, and it has until the end of next June to submit its report. In the light of this report, the date for holding the presidential elections will be decided. He pointed out that the state's duty is to work towards promoting dialogue for reaching unanimity and national concord, considering that this is the hope of all Algerians.

Popular Unity Party Head To Run in Election

LD2604100395 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first candidate has come forward for the presidential elections, which are scheduled to take place before the end of this year. He is Mr. Habibi Djameleddine, leader of the Popular Unity Party, a small party that did not win a single seat in the December 1991 legislative elections which were called off.

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HAMAS Leader on Dialogue, Election Prospects

MM2704104595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement "Hamas," by Nadyah Mahdid in London; date not given"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mahdid] What is your opinion after the recent round of talks with President Zeroual?

[Nahnah] Actually they are not talks. We believe it is a serious and deep dialogue directly dealing with the fundamental issues, first and foremost the issue of violence and ways of containing it, the presidential elections and how to hold them, and the elements which need to be secured to help hold these elections, especially as regards revoking the dismissal and marginalization of any influential figures seeking good for our homeland, Algeria. [passage omitted]

[Mahdid] What proposals did Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] submit to restore stability in the country?

[Nahnah] Actually the foundation of our dialogue with the presidency was the reconciliation document we submitted, with an appendix specifiying a timetable for conducting the reconciliation process among the conflicting parties; of course, without having the Kalashnikov on the negotiating table.

[Mahdid] Do you mean by the conflicting parties the authorities and the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Nahnah] That is right. Because there are two conflicting parties: one party promoting extremism, rejecting dialogue, reconciliation, and truce, and using violence extensively, and one party inside the authorities' organs and institutions adopting the eradicationist method.

As for us, we put ourselves in a central position, which rejects any eradicationist or violent tendency. This is why the reconciliation document we submitted to the presidency included the need to include the FIS in one way or another in the current dialogues between the parties and the authorities. These are our movements' proposals to resolve the crisis. We are not the shadow of any political movement or the Algerian authorities. [passage omitted]

[Mahdid] But did your movement sense the state's willingness to engage in a comprehensive and deep dialogue with all influential parties in the country?

[Nahnah] We speak the truth, even though some people might object to or distort it. The dialogue is still continuing between the police and the FIS men inside prison. The claim that the dialogue between these two conflicting parties has been severed is untrue.

[Mahdid] But as is known, the FIS leaders have been detained again, so how can a dialogue be conducted between the two parties?

[Nahnah] My personal position on this sensitive issue is that there was a golden opportunity to engage in the dialogue through two methods, namely by making concessions in favor of the nation, and by exercising tolerance. Because without concessions and tolerance, intransigence will remain as it stands, and the people will pay the price, hence wasting human achievements as a result of persistence in rejecting opportunities leading to success.

[Mahdid] Let us move on to your position on the elections. Does Hamas agree to the presidential elections being held before the end of 1995?

[Nahnah] We submitted a memorandum over a year ago, saying that, if there are differing views among the parties and between the parties and the authorities, and if the dialogues have for one reason or another produced no results, especially because of the intransigence of one party, in that case—and this is recorded in a document we sent to the presidency—we must refer to the people in order for them to have their say as regards the program and the personalities. We cannot transcend any Algerian citizen's voice. Citizens have to express their view sincerely and seriously, because it is a big responsibility both in this life and in the hereafter.

[Mahdid] With regard to the other political parties, is there a clear position vis-a-vis their participation in the presidential elections?

[Nahnah] Some parties have on several occasions, repeatedly, boycotted the dialogue then rushed back to it. We say that such an attitude does not serve the people's interests. We are for a dialogue with all the political parties on the Algerian political scene. We are also for holding presidential elections. Because it is unreasonable for a great homeland like Algeria to stay without an elected president. A president must be found for this homeland. But the condition is to take a number of measures, which can be summed up as follows:

First, to abandon the security confrontation idea, because that is bound to lead to stability.

Second, the government must stop issuing decisions and laws putting pressure on the Algerian people.

Third, social conditions must be settled.

Fourth, there have to be equal opportunities as regards media services. [passage omitted]

[Mahdid] President Zeroual stressed to politicians in Algeria in a recent statement that "the time for dialogue is now, not later." Does that mean that relations between the authorities and the parties have entered a new phase of confrontation and estrangement?

[Nahnah] Our movement rejects such a method, as a result of which dialogue with any political movement on the Algerian scene is severed. However, the two steps can coincide: to go to the ballot box to elect an Algerian president for this wronged country, and to keep the dialogue door wide open to anyone wishing to find a way

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out of this crisis, which has security, economic, and social dimensions. These questions are linked. We are against the idea of suspending the dialogue. We are for continuing the dialogue, because anyone who talks of suspending the dialogue does not want dialogue. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 13 'Terrorists' in Manhunts

LD2604200795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique of the security services said today that the security forces killed 13 terrorists during various manhunt operations carried out in the capital Algiers, Chlef, Bouira, Tlemcen, and Khenchela.

Egypt

Envoy to Washington Explains Country's NPT Stance

NC2604152495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Mahir, the Egyptian ambassador to Washington, has stated that there are no problems in principle between Egypt and the United States over renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The dispute between the two, he added, is confined to the question of whether or not this treaty should be extended indefinitely. As for the principle of extending it, Egypt certainly approves of it, he added.

Speaking on this matter at a seminar on the Arab-U.S. dialogue organized by the National Federation of Arab Americans in Washington, Ambassador Mahir emphasized that Egypt believes that there is a need to work to make the renewal of the treaty meaningful so that the treaty will not be made hostage to the interests or stands of one party at the expense of another. In this regard, he noted that the Egyptian position was made very clear at the joint press conference of President Husni Mubarak and Bill Clinton during President Mubarak's visit to Washington early this month.

Ambassador Mahir pointed out that Egypt was one of the first countries to sign the treaty in 1968 and that Egypt's commitment to the treaty over the years since that date has been unwavering. He referred to Israel's objection year after year to the UN resolutions on the universality of the NPT and the need for all countries, without exception, to adhere to it. Israel has stressed that the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons cannot be attained without direct negotiations among the regional parties concerned, he added. Ambassador Mahir noted that this principle insisted on by Israel has now been realized with the existence of the current negotiations as well as with Israel's conclusion of agreements with Jordan and the PLO.

Ambassador Mahir pointed out that Egypt is not asking Israel to join the treaty immediately, but will be content if it commits itself to a specific date, perhaps two or three years from when it reaches a peace agreement with Syria and Jordan [as heard]. He noted that Egypt also had proposed that Israel in the meantime agree to let the working group of the multilateral talks begin discussion of ways to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The Egyptian ambassador emphasized that since these proposals require a clear-cut Israeli answer, something that has not been received, Egypt has declared clearly that it can not accept an indefinite extension of the NPT.

Daily Expects NPT To Be Extended Indefinitely

NC2704081595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expects the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] to be extended indefinitely. It says 92 treaty signatory countries promised to vote for a permanent extension; the majority required for a decision does not exceed 90 votes.

In its editorial today, the paper says various sources believe this pledge will increase the number of countries that will vote for this option in the coming days; they cannot lose, since they will not gain in line with an idea being promoted within the conference.

The paper says the issue is bigger and more important than this. It has been understood from the beginning that the United States and the big powers that advocate an indefinite extension will secure the necessary majority. But, it adds, a problem such as the relationship between legitimacy and legality is associated with this Treaty.

The paper notes that securing an extension legally does not necessarily mean the Treaty will be effective. Its effectiveness, the paper adds, is linked with various issues, most importantly its universality and the guarantees it provides for the nonnuclear states' security. This is in addition to the Treaty's possible benefit for its members regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says things will not be confined to the Treaty's extension; more important is its validity itself.

Daily on Eritrean President's 'Secret' Visit

NC2604141095 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 45

[From the "Sudan" page: "Egyptian-Eritrean Coordination To Overthrow the Sudanese Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eritrean President Afwerke visited Cairo during the third week of March and stayed for a few days, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior officials.

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Although the details of Afwerke's talks have not been publicized and in spite of the media blackout, AL-SHIRA' has obtained a secret report which says that President Afwerke's talks extensively discussed Eritrea's antagonistic relations with the Sudanese Government since the severance of relations between Asmara and Khartoum. At the talks the possibility of coordinating the positions of the Egyptian and Eritrean Governments toward the fundamentalist regime in Sudan, which is almost six years old, was also considered .

Observers note differences in Asmara's and Cario's approach to the Sudanese fundamentalist threat. While Egypt prefers to handle the matter patiently through calm diplomacy, Asmara wants to take a more positive and clear step by backing the Sudanese opposition and preparing it to overthrow the Sudanese regime, which is suffering from regional and international isolation.

Newspaper Reviews Export Strategy, Issues

95LD0048A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
25 Feb 95 pp 60-62

[Article by Safa' Luwis: "Who Is Protecting Egyptian Exports From the Export Brokers and 'Adroitness of Deception'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Hit and run," "cleverness and good luck," and "the adroitness of deception" [the Egyptian dialect word "tawshish," translated here as "deception," actually means "putting good merchandise at the top of a crate and bad or rotten merchandise in the bottom part"] are new phenomena that the Egyptian export market has begun to suffer from. According to those concerned, the Egyptian market lacks "producers of exports" and suffers from the effects of the export brokers. What has made the situation even worse is the issuance of a previous decree abolishing the role of those who inspect some of the exported merchandise. The natural consequence of this has been a decline in revenues from exports year after year.

Exporters, economics experts, and officials say that there are many reasons for this decline, but all agree that it would not be enough to curtail export procedures, remove red tape barriers, and provide new advantages and easy terms. They say that one must also create a production structure that is geared toward export.

Concerning this issue, Dr. Ahmad Juwayli, minister of supply and internal trade, said: "There is no such thing as an export industry in Egypt. All of our exports are undertaken on the basis of individual decisions. In spite of the ups and downs in the volume of exports of our traditional crops, we cannot say that there has been a real increase or actual expansion in our total exports. Let's take, for example, the case of our tomato production. In spite of the international market's capacity to absorb large quantities of the Egyptian tomato crop, which totals 50,000 tons [per year], we only export a negligible quantity of tomatoes to this market. There are a number of reasons why this is true. The most important reason is that the prices of Egyptian tomatoes are higher than the prices of competing goods in the international markets. Also, the competing goods are packaged and displayed better than the Egyptian merchandise. There is fierce competition from a number of countries, particularly Turkey and Jordan; and Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel are also emerging [as competitors]."

Dr. Juwayli added: "No matter what easy terms and advantages we grant to the exporters, this will not promote the growth of Egyptian exports. The important thing is to concentrate on the internal production structure. This will require action in a number of areas. The first area involves reducing the costs entailed by the agricultural producers. This is the opposite of what is happening in Egypt today. We are trying to increase production without, at the same time, keeping on eye on the increase in costs. This is the opposite of the policy followed by all the rest of the world, which is less concerned with increasing production than with attempting to produce goods that require only small industrial expenses. It is well known that people in the rest of the world are trying to follow the path of being economic producers in order to be able to deal with the stiff competition."

Dr. Juwayli went on to say: "We also have to adhere to better quality standards. In Egypt we still use large quantities of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This is something that is not acceptable for products that go to the world markets."

Hit and Run

Dr. Juwayli also revealed the fact that Egyptian exporters of fruits and vegetables still depend on the method of deception in which they place the good merchandise at the top of a crate and put bad merchandise at the bottom, and they are thus concerned with the fruits and vegetables that show in the top part of the crate or carton and do not care what they put in the bottom part.

[He said:] "This is considered to be the real reason why our exported goods get sent back to us. There is also another reason. In many cases, Egyptian exporters do not honor their obligations with foreign importers. This is particularly the case when prices go down abroad and Egyptian exporters then back out of exporting merchandise on the pretext that the prices are not profitable for them. Also, sometimes the prices of merchandise might go up in the domestic market and be higher than those in the international market, as happened [recently] with unhulled rice due to speculation on this product inside Egypt. In such cases also, Egyptian exporters might not honor their obligations with foreign importers."

The minister of supply continued: "The Egyptian market does not have producers of goods for export. We have only brokers of goods for export. Whoever among them manages to have a spare shipment of potatoes or meat then

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exports it. That is, they operate according to the principle of 'hit and run.' There is no doubt that this mode of operation negatively affects the Egyptian economy. For this reason it has been decided to have the new Monopolies Law prevent such fluctuations in prices. The Monopolies Law is the law of the free market. All capitalist countries prevent the occurrence of such fluctuations in the market and endeavor to bring about stability in prices, and this applies to the prices of domestic goods, exported goods, and even imported goods."

Finally, Dr. Juwayli asked: "How can our nation continue to depend on this slippery and unreliable sector? How can we succeed in developing our exports unless we have a clear goal? Our export sector has no industry, no form, and no definite characteristics. The only exporting we do is carried out on the basis of cleverness and good luck."

Contaminated Areas

Another person who agrees with the opinion set forth above is Ahmad Farhat, minister plenipotentiary and secretary general of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce in London. He tells us: "Egyptian agricultural crops have suffered a setback with regard to being exported to the European Common Market [EEC]. The EEC nations have issued a decision that will prohibit the importing of Egyptian potatoes that contain 'brown rot.' The brown rot is found in Egypt's agricultural lands and has been around for several years. Also, the seed being used still contains brown rot." Mr. Farhat warns against further production of potatoes containing brown rot, saying: "The EEC has decided this year to issue a decision to prohibit importing merchandise from contaminated areas from which any shipments at all containing brown rot have been exported. It had been decided to issue this law last year, and we tried hard to have this decision delayed so that we could deal with the problem and so that our exports would correspond to international specifications. I believe that the problem is not a difficult one, because we know which areas are contaminated. Also, we can use areas with sandy soil to grow potatoes. We realize the importance of solving the problem of our contaminated exported potatoes when we learn that England alone imports between 70,000 and 90,000 tons of potatoes that have a value of as much as 70 million pounds per year. Also, the importation of potatoes constitutes 70 percent of England's total imports. This is just one particular case. In general, Egypt's exports to the EEC and other advanced countries, in accordance with the GATT agreement, consist basically of agricultural exports or processed products that are made from agricultural products. For this reason, we should be careful with them. When GATT goes into effect in 1995, there will be no more quotas or tariffs. The only restriction will be that standard specifications and standards of quality will have to be adhered to. This is also very important because European buyers tend to depend on their eyes when shopping, that is, they look at the form and appearance of the goods. Egyptians, on the other hand, tend to depend on smelling the merchandise when shopping."

Mr. Farhat also said that it is necessary for Egyptians to stop using pesticides and chemical fertilizers because the entire world is moving in the direction of using nonorganic [probably "organic" is meant here] fertilizers.

The Exporters Are Innocent

Abu al-Sa'ud Sultan, head of the Exporters Division in the Chamber of Commerce, asks: "How can one export a crate of fruit when some of it or even just one of the fruits contains the fruit fly? We know that the crate will be rejected, even if the fruit is all right. We are trying to prevent this in our inspections and packaging centers." He said that a crop deficit leads to increased prices domestically, and thus to a lack of ability to compete internationally.

Concerning the export situation in the field of ready-made clothes and knitted wear, he said: "These exports increased 25 percent during the years 1992-93. Although these products are of high quality, the quota system that has been imposed on textiles, fabrics, T-shirts, pants, and shirts is holding down our exports. For example, the quota that the United States allows is about 1.1 million packages, whereas we have the capability of exporting over 2 million packages. Our prices are still competitive in relation to other products, and [our goods] are of high quality. Here we have merchandise and products that are on a level worthy of being exported. Samples are being shown to the customers, and they are accepting them. Furthermore, the new investment enterprises produce merchandise that is on a high level in terms of quality, and the production is being done with the latest technology. Developments in Egyptian production are keeping pace with international markets in both the agricultural and industrial fields."

Mr. Sultan gave an explanation of the most important barriers that prevent the marketing of Egyptian goods. He said: "Domestic burdens are the main barrier to Egyptian exports. Our exports have to be made free of these burdens. They include customs fees and immediate payment of these fees that are charged for the goods in Egypt, both in the case of imported production materials required and imported raw materials. We also need to reduce shipping costs, which can be as high as 100 percent of the value of some of the goods being shipped, such as fruits and vegetables. Also, some of the goods, before being shipped, involve costs for shipping inside Egypt, packaging costs, and transport costs inside the airports, which total between 11 and 15 percent [of the value of the goods]. In general, in the various countries of the world, shipping costs total no more than 40 percent [of the value of the goods being shipped]."

Mr. Farhat said: "Egyptian exports are facing ever greater barriers, particularly during the stage when one must obtain permits from countless parties. For example, in order to gain entry into the airport, an exporter needs a permit for himself and another one for his workers, and then he has to go through many dreadful inspection areas,

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which cause him to lose a lot of time. After all of this, [sometimes] the merchandise turns out to be defective, and the foreign importers are the only ones who discover this. It should be mentioned that 90 percent of the 'defective' goods are goods that were passed through by the inspection agencies in Egypt."

Inspections Again

Concerning this accusation, which has been directed at the agencies that inspect exports, Salah 'Awad, head of the Exports Inspection Authority, said: "The real reason for the decline in exports goes back to 1987, when fruit and vegetable exporters demanded that inspection of the fruits and vegetables be abolished and that the exporters assume the responsibility for making sure that their goods are shipped abroad in good condition. In fact, a decree was issued by the minister of economy that exempted [the merchandise from inspections]. The results of this were the following: 1) fruit and vegetable exports went down from 90,000 tons in 1987 to 40,000 tons in 1994, and 2) most of the shipments arrived with the merchandise in spoiled condition, and some of the shipments were returned to Egypt or else the merchandise was sold at dirt-cheap prices because of the bad quality."

He continued: "We have a total of 15,000 registered exporters. But only about a thousand of these exporters are actually active in this sector as exporters. Some of them know nothing about export practices. This is a phenomenon that must be corrected if we are going to maintain Egypt's reputation abroad. As for citrus fruits, potatoes, onions, garlic, and peanuts, they have their own packaging and preparation centers. Committees from the Inspection Authority are monitoring the packaging, sorting, and waxing operations inside the packaging and preparation centers, and they do the same thing at the rice-hulling facilities. These are goods that are subject to inspection by the Exports Inspection Authority. The result of this monitoring has been that exports of these goods have greatly increased, and no complaints have been lodged against them in international markets—with the exception of some cases of invisible diseases such as 'brown rot' in one-tenth of 1 percent of the potatoes. This disease is found inside the potato tubercles, and the party responsible for detecting it is the Agricultural Quarantine because it does the inspecting concerning diseases and insects in Egyptian exports. This is something that is normal for fruits and vegetables."

Mr. 'Awad went on to say: "There are a number of committed large- scale exporters who have demanded that inspection be reinstituted for these goods, in view of the negligence that has been going on in export operations and because of the decline in quality of the exports. There is also another category of exporters who reject this, and they are small-scale exporters. The matter is being left up to the authorities in this regard. We should bear in mind that quality control of the exports is primarily a function of the international specifications and secondarily a function of the specifications of the Gulf nations, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. Furthermore, the role of the inspections is more to provide guidance than to perform inspections, the aim being to protect Egypt's reputation abroad. This is why the elimination of inspections on 80 items, in response to the demand of the exporters, led to a decline of more than 50 percent in exports. It should be mentioned that the total in fruits and vegetables produced [per year] is 11 million tons, whereas only a total of from 40,000 to 45,000 tons are exported per year. Naturally this is something that needs to be changed."

It Is Not Enough To Curtail the Procedures

Sa'd al-Tawil, head of the Businessmen's Association, says: "The goal for exports during the next 10 years has been set at $10 billion. This has been clearly reflected in the fact that our nation's political and executive leaders have adopted a new export strategy based on liberating this sphere of activity from all administrative complications and restrictions. Allow us to clarify some possible ideas that could deal with the problem and provide an impetus to exports. The problem at the present time is that too many burdens are placed on the shoulders of the exporters. These burdens include the length of time required to complete the paperwork procedures necessary for the process of exporting, the number of forms and papers that have to be filled out, the difficulty one has sometimes in obtaining copies of these forms, and the number of times one has to pay fees, pay for stamps, and pay for services that are categorized under many different names in ports and airports. All of these things result in raising the prices of Egyptian exports and cause them to lose their competitive advantage in relation to the exports of other nations."

Mr. Tawil goes on to say: "There are more than 45 steps in the export procedures for agricultural goods that are shipped via the Merchandise Association through the Cairo airport. Also, the procedures are performed in more than one place, and this affects the comprehensiveness of the services performed in [any] one location. More than 15 documents—including certificates, forms, permits, orders, bills, and receipts—are circulated during these procedures, and about 18 stamps have to be put on samples and their photographs and the orders. In addition to this, there are eight types of fees that are paid under numerous names and different categories, and they are assessed sometimes on the basis of tonnage, sometimes on the basis of parcels, sometimes on the basis of letters, and so on.

The exporter is also forced to submit to an inspection of his letters by the agencies that inspect exports and the granting of permits. They are then inspected again, along with the samples, by the agricultural quarantine agencies, and fees are paid to them in order that they grant the agricultural certificate. Then new requests must be submitted to the Exports Inspection Authority in order

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that certificate of national origin be granted. The exporter then has to pay fees for services that are done for the benefit of the state rather than the exporter. The government rather than the exporter should be [should this be pay instead of be] for them, and they include things like the fee for inspection for explosives and other additional expenses for services for which fees have already been paid, such as paying additional amounts to people on guard duty or representatives of the inspection agencies who examine the letters in the places of production and during regular work times."

Mr. Tawil commented on these obstacles, saying: "This time support for exports should not be limited to curtailing the number of steps involved. The matter requires that the government increase its efforts to give support to export agencies and establishments, coordinate with them, search for unconventional solutions to the barriers that exports face, and alleviate the huge financial burdens that are being imposed on them."

The head of the Businessmen's Association brought up the issue of the current monopolization of the services provided, saying: "Tremendous excesses have been taking place in the realms of setting prices for services performed in airports and ports by the airline companies, shipping companies, cargo loading and unloading firms, and maritime agencies, and these prices are much higher than what exporters have to pay in other countries. For this reason, this monopolization of services should be abolished and opportunities should be opened up for companies in the public and private business sectors so that they can compete with each other. We should bear in mind that the fees charged by EgyptAir are much higher than those charged by foreign companies in Egypt. And finally, the Merchandise Association in the Cairo airport is limited in terms of the amount of work that it can handle. This has a [negative] effect on the movement of exports and causes bottlenecks during peak periods."

Merchandise and the Market

Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id, former minister of economy and chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, offers his point of view: "The process of stimulating Egyptian exports requires two things. First of all, stimulation of exports depends on the existence of a strong production base that produces goods for export, provided that the goods are of high quality and efficiently produced. In other words, exportable goods should be available and they should be able to compete in the international markets, as is the case nowadays with [merchandise produce in] Singapore, Korea, and Thailand. Second, there is the matter of marketing. I believe that the government should adopt an enthusiastic attitude and provide assistance to the export sector, as is being done in the cases of Korea and Turkey. The exporters should be granted assistance in the form of a percentage of the value of the exports, and this should vary in accordance with the type of goods being exported. Exporters bring hard currency into the country, and exports are like investments. Imports, on the other hand, are tantamount to a lack of investments."

Dr. al-Sa'id went on to say: "We all know that the process of opening up and breaking into markets abroad is a costly and arduous affair, which requires support from the government.

As for the matter of making the administrative process easier and dealing with bureaucratic barriers, undertaking this would not serve any useful purpose as long as we do not have high-quality goods and a market that accepts these goods. The other problems, though, are marginal."

Successive Decreases

Concerning the matter of development of revenues earned from exports, Dr. Salah al- Jundi, an economics expert, said: "Revenues from exported goods fluctuated during the time period 1981-82 to 1992-93. They totaled 3.9 billion Egyptian pounds [EP] in 1983-84, and went down to EP2.2 billion in 1983-84 [apparent error here in years quoted]. They then went up again to EP3.4 billion by 1992-93, but then went down again by EP500 million in comparison with 1990- 91.

One of the factors causing these fluctuations has been the changes in world oil prices and the decline in cotton in successive seasons, both in terms of local production and world prices. Oil, cotton, and by-products from these two items constitute the bulk of Egypt's exports.

This led to a decline in the revenues of exported goods [as a percentage of] total current payments. This decline was from 34.2 percent to 20.8 percent during the eighties and until 1992-93. There was also a decline in the revenues of exported goods as a percentage of payments for imports during this same period, which was from 44.6 percent to 31.8 percent. There was also a decline in exports as a percentage of the GNP. In Egypt this percentage was 11.5 percent, whereas it was 31.2 percent in Korea, 16.7 percent in the Philippines, 20 percent in Bolivia, and 13.8 percent in Turkey."

Dr. al-Jundi attributes this severe fluctuation, year after year, in the revenues from exports to the current export policy, which is based fundamentally on exporting surplus goods and the fact that the quantities of exported goods are linked to consumption levels [in Egypt]. He said: "Consequently the basic issue is that domestic production is unable to satisfy both domestic and foreign demand.

As for exports of agricultural goods, figures also show a decline in revenues from $663.3 in 1983-84 to $198.2 in 1992-93. The main reason for this was cotton, the decline in which was attributed to the decrease in amount of land available for planting cotton and thus a decline in productivity. This resulted in an overall decline in cotton production, and at the same time there

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was an increase in demand, and thus the result was a lack of cotton available for export. Furthermore, there has been a decline in world cotton prices during recent years, as well as a decline in foreign demand for Egyptian cotton exports.

Rice, potato, and citrus fruit exports were characterized by fluctuations during the last few years. Domestic production of rice increased from 1.6 million tons in 1981-82 to 4.1 million tons by 1992-93. This was made possible by the abolishment of compulsory importing, liberalization of prices, and the use of seed to increase productivity.

Revenues from the export of citrus fruits, however, decreased 5 percent during the period 1989-90 to 1992-93. This is attributable to the strong competition that these exports faced from Spain, the nations of Arab North Africa, and other countries.

Revenues from potato exports increased from $23.6 million during the eighties to $39.6 million in 1991-92, but then they sharply decreased to $19.1 million in 1992-93.

Textiles

And now we turn to the situation of the textile exports. First we must bear in mind that Egyptian industry in general is undergoing a period of transition in the framework of the economic reform program, which has the aim of bringing to light actual costs, both by means of rectification of prices and operation in accordance with market mechanisms. There are also numerous other factors such as energy prices, all of which have contributed toward increasing the prices of this industry's products. Due to all of this, revenues earned from textile industry products have turned out to be unstable and have fluctuated. These revenues first rose from $251 million in 1981-82 to $635 by 1989-90, but they then decreased to $449 million in 1992-93.

Food exports have mostly been in the form of canned vegetables, fruits, molasses, black honey, onions, dried garlic, fish, shrimp, tobacco, and cigarettes. Revenues from these exports increased from $27.9 million in 1985-86 to $144.5 million by 1991-92, but they then decreased to $97.9 million in 1992-93."

Obsolete Fleet

Dr. al-Jundi recommends that a number of procedures be followed that would contribute toward lending support to Egyptian exports. The most important of these could be solving the problem of empty spaces on board ships and planes, putting an end to the monopolization of the loading and unloading operations in ports, allowing competition, not restricting the export of some goods only to one particular company, lessening the domination by public sector firms in the field of transport, preventing them from charging such high fees for loading and unloading goods, and encouraging the private sector to invest in this area."

He goes on to say: "The maritime transport fleet is obsolete. We must endeavor to add new capacities to this fleet. The same is true for the means of land and air transport. Also, we need to decrease customs fees on goods that are imported [to improve these means of transportation]. We realize this when we see that prices for trucks—one of the means of land transport—are as high as EP400,000."

Dr. al-Jundi then pointed out: "It is necessary to operate in accordance with the reality of foreign markets and to clearly set priorities for the orientation of our exports in accordance with exact figures based on estimates of absorption capacities and possibilities for competition. We also need to determine in which markets our exports have favorable advantages or, at least, in which markets they do not face the barriers of quotas and quantitative restrictions. For this reason, we urgently need to orient ourselves toward the Arab markets, especially the Gulf markets, in order to both decrease and diffuse the element of risk."

Concerning the demand that the Egyptian pound be devalued against the dollar in order that our exports be increased, the banking expert denied the validity of this approach. He said: "The validity of this has not been shown in practice, particularly in view of the successive measures taken to decrease [the value of] the Egyptian pound in recent times. This did not result in an increase in our exports. In fact, they have decreased overall in July and September from $3.9 billion in 1990-91 to $3.2 billion currently, meaning that they have decreased 20 percent during the last three years. So the unfavorable exchange rate has not been the only factor influencing the amount and value of our exports. There are also other factors such as the availability of products for export, the quality of the exports, and the increase in the variety and quality of products that compete with each other in the international markets."

Libya

Saudi Actions Against U.S. 'Conspiracy' Lauded

LD2604090095 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, al-Tayr 26, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The daring and correct position of Saudia [Saudi Arabia] which foiled a U.S. piracy conspiracy planned by the U.S. intelligence has produced wide-scale reactions in Arab and international arenas.

Political analysts confirmed that Saudia has adopted the right position to foil the U.S. intelligence operation which was planned to abduct a Lebanese citizen in Jeddah airport. The U.S. Government was planning to

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land the plane in Jeddah airport to abduct the suspect but Saudia foiled the plot by refusing the landing of the plane over its territory.

News reports indicate that this correct position by Saudia did not please the Americans. William Perry the U.S. minister of defence announced that Saudia's abstention to cooperate with the United States was disappointing for them.

Warren Christopher the U.S. secretary of state confirmed that his government lodged a complaint for Saudi authorities for their refusal to cooperate with U..S intelligence.

This affair reveals that the United States used to treat Saudia as if it were one of its states. This is stark coveting against an independent sovereign state.

Saudis Thanked for 'Right Decision' on Pilgrims

LD2404203995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation conferred this morning with brother Mubarak Bin-Thabit al-Qatami, the Saudi charge d'affaires in the Great Jamahariyah.

The brother secretary conveyed to him the gratitude of the Arab people in the Great Jamahariyah to their brethren in Saudi Arabia for taking the right decision to receive the aircraft of the Libyan Arab Airways which took off from Libyan airports with the first group of Libyan pilgrims abroad.

For his part, the Saudi charge d'affaires praised the strong fraternal bonds between the two countries and reaffirmed his country's continuous readiness to furnish the necessary services and amenities to the Libyan Arab pilgrims.

Telegram Hails Saudi Stand on Israeli Passport

LD2604211595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 26 Apr—The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has sent a telegram to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Here is the text of the telegram:

Dear brother: The custodian of the two holy mosques. You have added another stand which deserves all our appreciation, namely, your refusal to accept pilgrims carrying Israeli passports—a matter that has compelled them to change the passports to Jordanian travel documents. We ask you to record more decisive pan-Arab stands until our nation achieves victory over all its enemies.

With my greetings and esteem,

[Signed] Your brother, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Liberian, Ghanian Officials

LD2204213395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As an expression of the internationalism of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, and in harmony with the efforts made by the internationalist leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to settle problems in Africa, including the ongoing conflict in Liberia, the brother leader had a meeting today with Charles Taylor, leader of the National Front of Liberia; and Kojo Tsikrata, special counsellor to the president of Ghana. This took place immediately after they attended the meetings of the African committee for the settlement of disputes, held in Tunisia.

Conditions which would help to maintain peaceful stability in the region, settle the ongoing conflict in Liberia, and provide food and medical aid for the Liberian people who are suffering as a result of the conflict were reviewed and discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Serb Islamic Delegation Visits, Meets al-Qhadhdhafi

LD2504200595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution, leader of the world people's Islamic command, has received a delegation of the Islamic People's Command of the Republic of Serbia, which includes the mufti of Belgrade, and the Islamic delegation accompanying him from the regions of Nis and Srebenicia. The delegation affirmed to the brother leader of the revolution that the aim of the visit by the delegation to the Great Jamahariyah is to express the total solidarity of the Muslims of Serbia with the people of the Great Jamahariyah, and its brave decision to fly directly from the airports of the Great Jamahariyah to the sacred places for pilgrimage.

The delegation also conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution the permanent preparedness of the Muslims of Serbia to stand by the people of the Great Jamahariyah and its world Islamic command, and to bolster its pioneering role in helping Islam and Muslims throughout the world.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Uganda's 'Uncivilized' Action

EA2604162595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudan has condemned the uncivilized action taken by the Kampala regime against its mission in Kampala. Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, said that Sudan had proved its desire to maintain good relations with its neighbors and Uganda.

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He referred to Sudan's acceptance of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative, which included Uganda. He said that this acceptance, despite the wide political forum and extensive geo-strategic support that Uganda had given the rebel movement, enabling it to enter Sudan, demonstrated Sudan's good intentions.

Dr. Ghazi said that our dealings with Uganda were friendly. He said the Ugandan regime did not respect this spirit, and that the Ugandan president had become a cat's paw and one of the tools being used by Western states to undermine the region's stability and peace.

His excellency spoke about Sudan's acceptance of Libyan mediation and the agreement signed in Tripoli. Dr. Ghazi said it was clear that the Ugandan side was not keen on this agreement, adding that subsequent developments sought to undermine Sudan, but that Sudan had not acted in the same way.

He said the Ugandan ambassador had left Khartoum without informing the Foreign Ministry, which, he said, showed that the intention was to plot against Sudan. The state minister for foreign affairs stressed that Sudan was keen on the policy of good neighborliness.

He pointed out that some great powers had announced that they would isolate Sudan and try to sour its relations with its neighbors. His excellency said that this was proved by what was happening in Uganda at the moment. He added that Uganda's problems would not be resolved by closing Sudan's Embassy in Kampala.

Ethiopian Deputy Trade Minister Arrives for Visit

EA2604195095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Adiala Basha, the Ethiopian deputy minister of trade, has arrived in Khartoum for a one-week visit.

Official discussions between the two sides will begin at 1000 this morning at the Finance Ministry. The Sudanese side will be led by Mr. Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, the minister of finance. The discussions will deal with all issues, especially economic ones. [passage omitted]

Attends Trade Talks

EA2604213595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, today in his office at the Republican Palace met the Ethiopian deputy minister for trade, Mr. Adiala Basha.

The two reviewed the work of the two countries' joint trade committee and how to remove the obstacles facing it in order to promote commercial cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Talks between Sudan and Ethiopia on trade and economic issues also began today at the Finance Ministry. The Sudanese side was led by Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahab Ahmad Hamza, the state minister for finance, and the Ethiopian side by the vice minister for trade.

The head of the Sudanese side said that the talks come in the context of cooperation between the two countries in all sectors, and paved the way for the joint ministerial committee meeting to be held some time in the coming weeks in Ethiopia.

For his part, the head of the Ethiopian side said the visit was building on the agreement signed between the two sides, and was aimed at tackling the problems related to the two countries' exports.

Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad met Mr. Basha on the sidelines of the meeting, and promised to remove all obstacles facing the implementation of the agreements between the two sides.

'Secret' Radio Stations Reportedly Set Up

NC2604145695 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 45

[From the "Sudan" page: "Secret Measures for Fear of a Sudden Coup"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime in Sudan occasionally takes some secret measures to protect itself in case of a military attempt to overthrow it or a popular uprising to do away with it similar to those that erupted against General 'Abbud in October 1964 and against Field Marshal Ja'far al-Numayri in April 1985.

The most recent of these secret measures was the setting up of secret mobile or semi-fixed radio stations in three places, which the regime can use in case of any sudden attack that succeeds in taking control of the official radio station in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city.

Investigations by AL-SHIRA' have revealed the locations of these hidden stations:

1. One inside the Signal Corps building in North Khartoum;

2. One in the area of (?Kafuri), east of North Khartoum; and,

3. One in the al-Fayha' building, a multistory building in central Khartoum owned by the leaders of the ruling National Islamic Front.

Tunisia

Jordanian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives For Committee Meetings

JN2504165495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

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[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has arrived in Tunis on a three-day official visit to Tunisia.

The premier is heading an official delegation of a number of ministers to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee. [passage omitted]

The premier told journalists at the airport that His Majesty King Husayn and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali have founded strong brotherly ties between the two countries.

He added that the Arabs in the Mashreq [East] and Maghreb are one nation and one people, expressing hope that mutual meetings will be held continuously on all levels to materialize the common objectives of the nation. [passage omitted]

Bilateral Agreements Renewed

JN2604053495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee resumed its meetings in Tunis today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Tunisian First Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui. The committee started its first session last night to renew bilateral agreements signed between the two countries and to promote the level of bilateral cooperation in all fields.

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Bahrain

Egyptian Paper Interviews Opposition Leaders

LD2604165895 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, April 26, IRNA—A leading Bahraini opposition figure has denied any outside link or support for his country's opposition groups and said the minority regime in Manama was trying to portray the current disturbances as a Shia-Sunni issue to gain sympathy of the west.

Mansur al-Jamri, who is living in London and acting as a spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement, told the Egyptian AL-AHRAM weekly in an interview that anti-government demonstrations in Bahrain will continue "as long as the government continues to refuse to conduct a dialogue with those who call for the restoration of parliament and democracy." Mansur is the son of prominent Bahraini alim, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, who was transferred to prison recently after three weeks of house arrest which included 18 members of his family.

He was among the 14 prominent Bahraini figures who signed a petition to the emir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, last October asking for the restoration of parliament, dissolved in 1975.

Mansur said the Bahrain government "intentionally higlighted the issue of Sunnis versus Shias to gain the sympathy of western governments, by giving the impression that we are controlled by Iran and that we are aiming at destabilisng the oilrich (Persian) Gulf state."

Denying any outside link or support, he said the 14 figures who originally signed the petition were not only Shias, they "also included Sunnis, secularists, Islamists and people of all ideologies." The English-language AL-AHRAM weekly said that more than 50 percent of Bahrain's population are Shias, but the Persian Gulf island has been ruled since the time of British colonialism by the Sunni family of Al Khalifah. According to conservative estimates, however, Bahrain's Shia population is around 75 percent.

Bahrain's ruler, Shaykh 'Isa, dissolved the parliament in 1975 after it refused to ratify a government decree giving the Interior Ministry the right to detain people for up to three years without trial. Since then, opposition parties say, tens of decrees limiting freedoms of opinion and expression have been put into effect, noted AL-AHRAM.

'Abd-al-Hamid al-Radi, the exiled spokesman for the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, in an interview with the weekly also said he expected the protests to continue for as long as the government insists on relying on security measures alone to deal with the situation. "Bahrain plays a key role in the west's defence of the oil-rich (Persian) Gulf. The United States Navy has a base in the southern part of the island, from which its ships mount continuous patrols of the (Persian) Gulf waters," wrote AL-AHRAM.

The deportation of a leading Islamic Bahraini figure, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, last December for his role in mobilising public support behind the petition was among the main reasons for the outbreak of anti-government protests, said the weekly.

Kuwait

Army Chief of Staff Reportedly Withdraws Resignation

NC2604204595 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, April 26 (AFP)—Kuwait's Army Chief-of-Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min has withdrawn his resignation, parliamentary deputy Mubarak Al-Duwaylah told AFP Wednesday [26 April].

"We knew he had withdrawn his resignation ... but we don't have further details for the reasons behind the withdrawal or even the resignation," al-Duwaylah added.

Newspapers said al-Mu'min had resumed his duties on Tuesday. His resignation had not been confirmed by the Defence Ministry who told AFP the major general, who has held the post since May 1992, was on holiday.

Al-Duwaylah said he may have decided to resign after being mentioned in a parliamentary report last week revealing huge irregularities in Kuwait's army and defence spending after the 1991 Gulf War.

He had heard that a number of officers included in the report "had resigned from their posts in the army" but that was not confirmed by the Defence Ministry.

Al-Duwaylah is a member of the inquiry commission set up when parliament was restored in October 1992 after a six-year suspension. Its brief is to investigate any government responsibility in Iraq's invasion in August 1990 and subsequent seven-month occupation.

Earlier this week he called on the Defence Ministry to suspend all high ranking army officers implicated in suspicious arms deals until they had been cleared.

Joint Exercises With U.S. Military Held

LD2604194895 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint U.S.-Kuwaiti Intrinsic Action military land exercises were held this morning in the Idayrah region in the north of the country. The

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exercises, which were attended by a number of high-ranking military officials from the Kuwaiti and American armed forces, included a mock battle with the enemy in which tanks and armored vehicles took part. During the exercises, enemy attacks were repulsed using various types of weapons.

Saudi Arabia

Ulema Grouping Calls For Release of Detainees

NC2604183695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Ulema Grouping in Hejaz has sent messages to the [Iranian] great sources of emulation and the ulema seminary calling on them to exert efforts for the release of the Muslims who have been detained by the Al Sa'ud regime for calling for the application of the Islamic shari'ah. The messages hold the Saudi regime responsible for preserving the life of scholar Ja'far al-Mubarak, who was detained by the Saudi security forces last month while performing religious rites. His fate is still unknown.

CDLR Spokesman Heads Demonstrators at Embassy in UK

MM2504160495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22-23 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Demonstration Outside Saudi Embassy in London; Amnesty International Concerned About Increasing Executions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Over 500 people, most of them Islamists, have demonstrated outside the Saudi Embassy in London in protest against the detention of more than 300 ulema in the Kingdom, including Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah and Safr al-Hawali. The demonstrators raised banners calling for the immediate release of the ulema and condemning the regime which detained them.

The demonstrators gathered in front of the London mosque and then proceeded to the embassy in the center of the British capital. At the head of the demonstrators was Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, official spokesman of the Saudi opposition's Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR]. Observers noticed that the demonstrators included a large number of supporters of the Islamic Liberation Party which is active in Britain and which condemns all the regimes in the Islamic states as excessive regimes.

The Saudi Embassy denied the demonstrators' charges of ill treatment of the ulema. It issued a statement saying that no state in the world treats its men of religion with more respect than Saudi Arabia.

In another development, Amnesty International in London has issued an urgent statement expressing its deep concern at the increasing number of executions in Saudi Arabia. It said that 90 people were executed between 20 January and 19 April 1995 and that those executed were denied defense by specialized lawyers. It said that there was a marked increase in the number of executions in comparison with previous years, noting that 15 people were executed in 1990, 29 in 1991, 66 in 1992, 88 in 1993, and 53 in 1994.

Minister on Executions, Iranian 'Demonstration'

LD2704093395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0005 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Apr—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, congratulated the 24th batch of university graduates turned officers at the High Institute for Security Studies at the King Fahd Security Academy and Institutes' Directorate General.

In a press statement following his patronization of the graduation ceremony this evening, his highness said: I wish the graduates success from God and that they will live up to the expectations from them, God willing. [passage omitted]

Asked about his comments on the recent report of Amnesty International, in which it criticized the Kingdom for the increasing cases of executions of drugs smugglers, his highness the interior minister replied: "We are carrying out the rules of God, the great and the almighty, and we will not pay attention to those who say anything about it." [passage omitted]

His highness the interior minister, asked about his response to the Iranians who claim that they will stage the "Demonstration of Innocence" this year, replied: "I have heard as you did. However, I would like to say that such a thing will not take place and they have been notified." His highness added: "We hope that all pilgrims of the house of God will respect this obligation and the feelings of the Muslims." "We believe, God willing, that everyone will cooperate with us," his highness added. The interior minister concluded by saying: This does not concern the Iranians only, but whoever attempts to tamper with the security of the pilgrims of the house of God or the security of the homeland. [passage omitted]

New Oil Reserves Discovered in Central Region

LD2604202895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, the oil and mineral resources minister, stated that the Saudi Arab oil company, Saudi Aramco, has discovered new reserves of top quality light oil following the digging of an exploratory well in the central region of the kingdom.

His excellency added that this well, Burmah 1, which lies at a distance of 160 km, around 100 miles, south of

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Riyadh, and at a distance of 25 km, 15 miles, north of al-Hawtah, has poured out sweet oil at the rate of 1,624 barrels per day. [passage omitted]

His excellency pointed out that this discovery extends the al- Hawtah formation to a longer distance in the direction of the previous discoveries at Dlam al-Rughayib, in the north, where the formation has been extended to 70 km from Um Jurf in the south to Burmah in the north, and it includes six separate wells. [passage omitted]

It is worth pointing out that with the discovery of the Burmah and Rakiz fields the number of the Arab top quality light oil and gas fields in the central region, south of Riyadh, became 13 fields.

His excellency pointed out that Saudi Aramco will continue to prospect for more crude and gas reserves in the region.

Papers View Policy on Nuclear Proliferation

LD2604144695 Riyadh SPA in English 1248 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, April 26, SPA—The Saudi newspapers shed light today on the Kingdom's grand services for Islam and Muslims as well as its commitment not acquire, develop or use nuclear weapons in the light of the Kingdom's global policy to seek peace, security and welfare for all.

The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD commended King Fahd's sincere efforts to serve Islam and Muslims.

The newspaper noted that the monarch has given assistance to establish Islamic centers in Europe and America and backed formation of seats for Islamic studies at some distinguished universities in the U.S. and Europe.

These centers and educational seats contribute positively in enabling the Muslims understand their religion and behave in a proper manner, the daily said.

Commenting on an address delivered by the Kingdom's representative at the international conference on proliferation of nuclear weapons, OKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah, said it had reiterated the Kingdom's adherence to the principles of global peace and security.

It is high time for the nuclear countries to take appropriate measures to contain the menace of nuclear stockpiling, nuclear tests and other related issues.

The Kingdom is keen on declaring the Middle East region as a free zone from all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, the the daily said.

On the same topic, the Jeddah-based AL-MADINA said the Kingdom has made it clear that the international community's silence over Israel's continuing and growing programme of developing its nuclear weapons arsenal would undermine the Middle East regional security.

The Kingdom will never tolerate the principle of selectivity regarding the treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, it said. "Selectivity and dual-standards regarding disarmament will no doubt, involve the region in a new era of armament race," it added.

For its part, the Dammam-based AL-YAUM said more than sixty years ago, the Kingdom was founded on the principles of global peace and security.

In line with these principles, the Kingdom has been supporting all initiatives pertaining to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, said the daily and added "the Kingdom views refusal of Israel to sign the treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a flagrant threat to the regional peace."

As Israel's refusal to sign the treaty will have an adverse impact on the global peace and security, the permanent members of the Security Council should shoulder their responsibility in this regard, the daily said.

Yemen

Al-Jifri 'Willing' To Stand Trial

MM2704103895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jifri Tells AL-HAYAH: Those Who Started the War Are the Ones Who Should Be Brought to Trial"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, leader of the [Sons of] Yemen League, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "there should be a trial of those who caused and started the Yemeni war."

Al-Jifri was reacting to the statement issued the day before yesterday by the public prosecution in Sanaa regarding "completion of the necessary files for the extradition of the accused people on the list of 16 in case No.1 for the year 1994 and the dispatch of these files to Interpol for the pursuit and extradition of these individuals to the Yemeni authorities." The other three wanted for extradition are 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and Salih Munsir al-Siyayli. The latter has been missing since 7 July last.

Al-Jifri said he was willing to appear before a court headed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and including Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Husayn al-Ahmar among the judges, with the role of prosecutor general played by Major General Ghalib Mutahhir al-Qamsh, head of the political security organ and a former interior minister. Al- Jifri, who held the post of vice president of "the Yemeni Democratic Republic" after the 20 May 1994 secession, said that he was "prepared to face such a court to see who the criminal was and who started the war. The criminal is the one who started the war ... We must not forget that the declaration of war preceded the declaration of secession." [passage omitted]

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RCC Hails Rejection of UN Resolution 986

JN2604112495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—A joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, held today under President Saddam Husayn, hailed the broad-based popular unanimous rejection of the U.S.-styled Resolution 986.

Following the meeting, an official spokesman said: This broad-based popular unanimity was demonstrated in the rejection by the National Assembly, the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organizations, the political organizations affiliated with the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, unions, mass organizations, professional associations, university lecturers, writers, journalists, media people, and a very large segment of the masses and the professionals. They all rejected the U.S.-styled Resolution 986 out of their complete conviction and their clear understanding of the evil intentions and plans that are being hatched against Iraq and the Iraqis.

The joint meeting also hailed the splendid patience and steadfastness and the great coherence of the Iraqi militant [mujahid] people. The people expressed their denunciation in mass demonstrations and rallies, despite the severity of the blockade and the inhumanity of the colonialists, who day by day go farther and farther into harming the Iraqis and preventing them from getting their basic needs, from the loaf of bread to the aspirin pill.

The joint meeting stressed that the true nature of our people in Iraq becomes evident in the positions in which they feel that the fate and sovereignty of the homeland are being doubted, and the only answer to these doubts is the great decision of the Iraqis, who refuse to bargain over the homeland and its dignity and honor regardless of the sacrifices.

The joint meeting of the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party emphasized that Iraq will not accept anything short of the Security Council's implementation of its commitments in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, especially since several states within and outside the Security Council are now showing a better understanding of Iraq's position and legitimate rights. The conferees decided that diplomatic, media, and popular action should be undertaken in this direction with the aim of making the Security Council respect its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with the provisions of its resolutions and not submitting to U.S. pressures and blackmail.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih had earlier informed the joint meeting that the Assembly has unanimously rejected the U.S. Resolution 986 and decided not to deal with it in any way whatsoever because it is meant to infringe on Iraq's sovereignty and national unity, humiliate the Iraqis, and weaken the growing international pressure on the U.S. Administration to end the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The National Assembly speaker said that while it approves the continuation of cooperation with the Security Council, the Assembly adheres to Iraq's right to ensure the Council's fulfillment of its commitments toward Iraq, its immediate implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, issued in April 1991, and the release of Iraq's frozen assets abroad.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said the National Assembly decided to reject Resolution 986 with full conviction after its standing committees had studied it in length from various political, economic, and procedural aspects. These committees started their work soon after the resolution was issued and worked until Sunday, 23 April. The Assembly then discussed a joint report submitted by these committees in sessions held on 24 and 25 April. The Assembly summoned the oil and foreign ministers for clarifications.

The National Assembly's proceedings and sessions in the past two days were attended by representatives and correspondents from world, Arab, and Iraqi television networks, news agencies, and press.

The RCC and the Iraq Command joint meeting reviewed the statements issued by the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in which the Councils voiced their denunciation of Resolution 986 and their adherence to Iraq's unity and sovereignty and demanded an immediate end to the unfair embargo.

During the joint meeting, the RCC members said that the party's cadres, professional and popular unions and organizations, university professors, and Iraqi and Arab writers, journalists and newsmen have discussed in seminars, meetings and articles this resolution and its political and economic dimensions and rejected it categorically. The masses have also voiced their rejection and denunciation of this U.S resolution through demonstrations and mass rallies held all over Iraq. They also voiced their determination to continue steadfastness and jihad in order to wrest all their legitimate rights and rally behind their leader and the symbol of their pride His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, RCC member and secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF], also highlighted the NPPF's rejection of this suspicious resolution.

The joint meeting was attended by the foreign minister and the minister of culture and information.

Speaker Cables Saddam, Reiterates Support

JN2604132795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly has reiterated its firm stand and commitment to the principles of the Ba'th revolution, as

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well as its eagerness to maintain the unity of the Iraqi people, protect their national wealth, and counter schemes that seek to undermine Iraqi sovereignty and dignity.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih lauded the president's struggle, saying: Your patient people, through their representatives at the National Assembly, pay great tribute to you and express their deep appreciation and love for you. They also renew their loyalty to your historic leadership, resolved to pursue the march in your pioneering footsteps to build this patient, struggling nation, which has defied the unjust embargo and the injustice of the arrogant despots of the states of infidelity and falsehood. Those states have been issuing the ugliest, most unjust resolutions against our people.

The National Assembly speaker added that the representatives of the Iraqi people are convinced that U.S. Resolution 986 is a malicious resolution that allows the Security Council to blatantly interfere in our country's internal affairs. This resolution also divests the people of their will and allows spies to wander around freely in Iraq. In addition, the resolution seeks to divide Iraq and foment rebellion and sabotage in the north.

Leading Officials Meet Turkish Parliamentary Group

Al-Sahhaf Stresses Resolving Problems

JN2704075395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf tonight received the Turkish parliamentary delegation led by Zeki Celiker currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, the foreign minister reviewed Iraqi-Turkish relations and the need to resolve the problems facing their development by giving preference to the common interests of the two neighboring countries and ending the political and military foreign interference in their affairs. This interference undermines the security and stability of both Iraq and Turkey and the region in general.

Al-Sahhaf also explained the dimensions of Iraq's principled position rejecting the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq. He called for direct dialogue between both sides to resolve the problems created as a result of Western, particularly U.S., interference in Iraq's affairs. He also called on Turkey to terminate the presence of the so-called Poised Hammer force on its territory and end the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory.

For its part, the Turkish delegation expressed support for Iraq's positions in this regard as well as the Turkish people's desire to continue and promote the relations with Iraq. Members of the Turkish delegation also sympathized with the Iraqi people who are facing the unjust blockade.

They also asked that their greetings and congratulations be conveyed to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday anniversary. They said they will convey to the Turkish officials and people what they saw and heard in Iraq.

Salih Reviews Relations

JN2604142795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has received Zeki Celiker, deputy chairman of the Turkish parliamentary union, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the historical and commercial relations and official agreements concluded between Iraq and Turkey, and their importance to the interests of the two friendly neighboring countries.

He said the people's representatives, through their National Assembly, rejected the new U.S. Resolution 986 because it directly undermines Iraq's sovereignty; creates political, economic, and financial problems; and is considered blatant interference in their internal affairs.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that the presence of Turkish forces in northern Iraq and their continuous assistance to the outlawed cliques make political and economic complications for Iraq and Turkey, and help fabricate crises that do not serve the two neighborly Muslim countries.

Salih urged the Turkish Parliament to pressure the Turkish Government to help lift the unjust siege and to actively contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the acute shortage of food and medicine.

Zeki Celiker said the Turkish people have always called for the lifting of the siege on Iraq because its continuation inflicted huge losses on the Turkish economy and because it is considered a legal violation of all international documents and norms and human rights.

He said the Turkish forces in northern Iraq will return to their barracks immediately after carrying out their duties, adding that the Turkish Parliament respects Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stressed that the safety of the Iraqi territory is the same as the safety of the Turkish territory.

Russian Fuel, Energy Minister Concludes Visit

To Support Pro-Iraq Resolution

JN2704095495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has said his government is making enormous efforts to allow Iraq to export its oil, and that it is pushing for the issuance of an international resolution that will satisfy Iraq.

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In a statement to the AL-THAWRAH newspaper published today, the Russian minister said Iraq has complied with all international resolutions, and that the UN Security Council must heed this compliance and fulfill its commitments, as Iraq is demanding, by ordering the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Says Accord Enhances Economic Ties

JN2604133795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today, having held official talks in Iraq and signed a cooperation agreement between the two friendly nations in the field of the oil and gas industry.

In a statement to INA, the Russian oil minister reiterated his government's determination to step up its ceaseless efforts to have the economic embargo lifted and to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, especially since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions.

The Russian minister noted the importance of the agreement signed between Iraq and Russia. The agreement will contribute significantly toward enhancing economic ties between the two countries, especially in the oil industry, in view of the technical expertise and skills of Russia's oil companies.

150 'Terrorists' Surrounded Near Turkish Border

NC2604142595 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 23 Apr 95 p 24

[Report by Ramazan Yavuz: "A Trap for the Terrorists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New action has been taken against the terrorists within the framework of "Operation Steel" in northern Iraq, which began on 20 March. The security forces are reported to have clashed with a large group of terrorists in the Mezi and Keryaderi areas.

"Operation Steel" was launched 34 days ago. The security forces have placed the operations area in northern Iraq under their control. Meanwhile, they had taken only a few measures in the Mezi and Keryaderi areas. That was done to lay a trap for the terrorists. These two locations are in the southeastern part of Cukurca District of Hakkeri Province in Turkey. The panic-stricken terrorists moved to reassemble in the two locations, which are only 15 km from Turkey's border. The security forces established that some 150 terrorists took refuge in the area in hopes that the steep slopes would provide shelter for them. However, several aircraft took off from Diyarbakir and bombed the terrorists. The air operation was followed by action of the ground forces against them. Some 5,000 troops then moved to surround the terrorists. Reinforcements have been dispatched from Derecik to support them. The military forces have sealed off the escape routes of the terrorists and officials report that the two sides have clashed.

The military officials claim that the operation at Mezi and Keryaderi could last for 10 days because of the terrain conditions in the area.

AL-THAWRAH Deplores Weak Arab Position on NPT

JN2704101495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0638 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said the Arab nation is currently the target of threats and aggressions, and that the dangers posed by nuclear arms will be exacerbated year by year. The fact that the Zionist entity is in possession of nuclear weapons will be used to bring about the total subjugation of the Arabs and promote U.S. interests as well as the Zionist quest for domination, the paper argues.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The nuclear disarmament of the region is currently an urgent political demand, given the unmistakably clear and great imbalance in the acquisition of deterrent mass destruction weapons, particularly since the Zionist entity is in possession of a large amount of such weapons. To add insult to injury, this entity is making it clear to all that it will not join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The paper goes on to say: The Arabs have attended the conference on the extension of the NPT armed with good reasoning and strong arguments. Nonetheless, what they lack is a unified stance as well as the ability to set or force conditions that would make the United States apply pressure on the Zionist entity in this regard.

The paper deems strange the positions of some Arab states which raised the issue of forcing the Zionists to join the NPT, but quickly backed down on these positions when faced with U.S. pressures that reached the point of implicit and explicit threats.

The paper urges international parties to shun double standards, as manifested in granting privileges to a small number of states and depriving many world peoples of their rights to equal treatment and equilibrium. As a matter of fact, these peoples' security and future are being compromised, as is happening in our Arab homeland.

The paper concludes by urging the UN Security Council to respect and implement its own resolutions, including Paragraph 14 of Resolution 687, which clearly provides for efforts to render the Middle East a region that is free of mass destruction weapons. Otherwise, the whole endeavor will be viewed as an act of blackmail and piracy targeting Iraq and the Arabs in particular.

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Rabin-Clinton Meeting To Conclude 'Life or Death' Issues

TA2704082795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 95 p 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the beginning of May will be the most important encounter ever held by the two men," high-level political observers in Israel believe.

According to these observers, Rabin and Clinton are called upon to conclude a series of issues pertaining to the negotiations between Israel and Syria. These issues are described by the observers as "a question of life or death" from Israel's point of view. Rabin will leave for the United States on 4 May and will confer with President Clinton at the White House the next day.

The U.S. Administration has made it clear in the preparatory talks in anticipation of Rabin's visit that as far as Clinton and Christopher are concerned there are only six months left to deal with the Israeli-Syrian track, since after this period Clinton will not be able to devote himself to the issue for domestic reasons.

Consequently, in the next few months the U.S. Administration will make a last-ditch effort "to strike a deal between Israel and Syria."

Administration officials believe this is possible and regard the resumption of talks between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington as an encouraging sign from Syria's point of view. The officials estimate that President al-Asad wants to reach an agreement and that many of the disagreements in the negotiations within the last few months were the result of misunderstandings between the two sides.

Rabin, Peres, Beilin Discuss Peace With Congressmen

TA2704094895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 95 p A4

[Report by Aluf Ben and Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] "For the price of two F-15's the terrorists can finance two years of terror activities against us," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday in a meeting with a visiting delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives headed by committee chairman Benjamin Gilman.

Rabin said the government chose the road of peace and decided to initially deal with an arrangement with the Palestinians who stand at the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict. According to the prime minister, terror is the main obstacle to peace and Iran is behind the radical Islamic terrorist organizations.

Gilman asked Rabin about the proposal to station U.S. troops on the Golan within the context of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. Rabin replied that 1,000 U.S. soldiers have been serving for 16 years with the multinational force in the Sinai. "They are not being called upon to defend Israel or Egypt; they just monitor the implementation of the peace treaty's military appendix. Not one of them has been hurt. A UN force has been stationed in the Golan for 20 years, and none of its men has been hurt either."

In his meeting with the congressional delegation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he is opposed to stationing U.S. soldiers on the Golan to defend Israel. "The very idea frightens me. We can and want to defend ourselves," stated Peres, who went on to point out the successful performance of the multinational force in the Sinai. The congressmen asked Peres what the United States can do to promote the negotiations with Syria, and the foreign minister replied that the talks should be upgraded to the level of foreign ministers and that the peace negotiations must be accelerated.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin told the congressmen that "the closer we get to the elections the harder it will be for the government to show flexibility toward Syria." According to him, "the current state of the talks may compel the United States to step up its efforts. Contrary to the view that the U.S. contribution has to do with financial aid or sending soldiers to the Golan, the important factor is time. Perhaps the United States should devote more time to attaining an arrangement between Israel and Syria."

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told the delegation that the U.S. Administration would be making a grave mistake, as he put it, if it agrees to send troops to the Golan Heights within the context of an arrangement between Israel and Syria. Netanyahu emphasized that the best guarantee of Israel's security is its continued full control of the Golan Heights. The congressmen merely listened to his assessment.

The meeting was also attended by Zalman Shoval, the former Israeli ambassador to the United States who is currently in charge of the Likud's foreign relations, and Dr. Dore Gold, Netanyahu's adviser on strategic affairs. Netanyahu added that Gaza has been a calamitous failure and called 'Arafat "a corrupt leader."

The Likud chairman was asked by the Americans whether he would agree to talk to 'Arafat if and when the Likud rises to power. Netanyahu replied that a government led by him would speak with anybody who is democratically elected, recognizes Israel's existence, and abrogates the charter calling for its annihilation.

Rabin Explains Decision To Evacuate IDF Bases

TA2604151195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced today that IDF [Israel Defense Forces]

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recruits would be evacuated from three bases in Judaea and Samaria, while Minister Yosi Sarid clarified that at the moment there are no plans to evacuate the bases themselves. The heads of the defense establishment this evening asked for 1 billion shekels from the finance minister to finance Spectrum-B, the IDF redeployment plan in anticipation of the implementation of the interim phase in the territories. At today's cabinet session defense officials presented worrisome data about the economic situation in the Gaza Strip and several ministers called for extending emergency aid to the Palestinian autonomy. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Segal] The preparations for the implementation of Spectrum-B have gone into high gear. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in the cabinet session today that the IDF would evacuate three boot camps in Judaea and Samaria: Horon in the Nabulus area, Bet El in the Ramallah area, and Adorayim south of Hebron. The bases themselves will not be abandoned but will be used by the units engaged in routine security missions. At a later stage they may be used to relocate IDF headquarters currently located in the center of Arab towns.

Prime Minister Rabin, who was touring northern Israel today, explained the decision to our correspondent Qobi Mandel.

[Begin Rabin recording] The decision was made to enable those troops which will have to come to the area to maintain security to use these bases. We are not going out so as to never come back with other troops or headquarters. Is that clear? The recruits and boot camps there will be replaced by other IDF headquarters and units. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Segal] Some ministers interpreted Rabin's remarks in the cabinet session to the effect that peace costs money as support for the idea of Israeli aid to the Palestinians. Rabin also spoke about the high cost of the IDF redeployment in Judaea and Samaria and the paving of bypass roads, while Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres pointed out: All this so that a few hundred families may go from settlement A to settlement B.

Peres Comments on IDF Redeployment

TA2604185095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Menashe Raz in Jerusalem on 26 April; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] Under the Camp David accords—which were reiterated in Oslo, by the way—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is to redeploy in Judaea and Samaria in accordance with our security needs, rather than our training needs. We want to move the training to sites in which it was done in the past.

[Raz] Does this mean the IDF is beginning the process of redeploying outside Judaea and Samaria cities?

[Peres] I am not prepared to answer this question as yet. I presume the IDF will indeed redeploy outside several cities, and there are several other cities in which the IDF will remain. It all depends on the state's security needs.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, does the evacuation of IDF bases also mean a lower standard of security? Because there will be less army vehicles and less troops in the territories.

[Peres] Not necessarily. Let us face it: What matters is the relationship with the Palestinians, not the relationship with the transportation. There are almost 1 million Arab citizens in Israel; we have no problem with them, either in Ma'alot or Tarshiha, either in lower or in upper Haifa. In fact, were it possible to improve the relations between the settlers and the residents of the territories, there would be no problem. The only problem is that of relations. Linking everything with roads, armored vehicles, and gunfire means being unable to see the situation as it really is.

Redeployment Seen as Signal to 'Arafat

TA2704083795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Commentary by Alon Pinkas: " 'Pre-redeployment' Is a Signal to 'Arafat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While politicians and the press frequently use the term "redeployment" to describe the partial withdrawal and realignment of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces outside Palestinian population centers as a prerequisite to elections, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin makes it a point to employ the term "pre-redeployment."

This is not merely a semantic difference, but a political statement. Rabin is moving, as he typically does, slowly and somewhat hesitantly. He explains that redeployment insinuates a permanent settlement, and would inevitably delineate the contours of a sovereign Palestinian entity.

According to the Oslo accords and subsequent negotiations with the Palestinians, free elections are to be held for a Palestinian council. Both sides agreed that democratic elections would be compromised if Palestinians were to vote with Israeli troops in the streets and near the polls.

Enter redeployment, or as Rabin would prefer to call it pre-redeployment.

The first phase of experimental pre-redeployment was practically announced yesterday by Rabin who said the IDF would remove the basic trainees from three bases in the territories, relocate them within the Green Line, and redesignate the bases for units that would pull out of Palestinian towns.

From a purely military point of view, this is insignificant. But the timing of the announcement is important. By declaring his intent now, Rabin is signaling Yasir

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'Arafat that he intends to at least try to meet the July 1 deadline, set several months ago as the target date for initial redeployment.

That deadline has been jeopardized by terror attacks, and 'Arafat's pledge to combat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad is still being tested.

Rabin, who pledged to continue the process despite recurrent terror attacks, has kept his word. Whether the process is a peace process, a separation process, or a doomed-to-fail process is a matter of opinion.

Rabin, it seems, is still giving it a chance.

Plan for Jerusalem Land Expropriation Announced

TA2704061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government plans to expropriate land in northern and southern Jerusalem areas that belongs to Arab residents of the city to build new Jewish neighborhoods. This is according to a Qol Yisra'el reporter. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 27 April carries a similar report adding that "the land in question is 330 dunams between the Ramot Neighborhood and Bayt Hanina in the north; and 200 dunams between Bayt Safafa, Malha, and Gilo in the southern end of Jerusalem."]

The 'Ir Shalem nonprofit organization has demanded that Finance Minister Shohat cancel the expropriation. The organization charges the expropriation harms the rights of Arab property holders in Jerusalem.

A spokeswoman for Israel Land Administration said that the plan for expropriation was made public according to the law and that most of the land was covered with rocks. She confirmed that most of the land belongs to Arabs, some to Jews, and ownership of some of the land was unclear.

Sarid, PA Official Oppose Plan

TA2704095895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources at the Palestinian Authority [PA] reacted sharply to the decision to expropriate more than 500 dunams in East Jerusalem for the construction of Jewish neighborhoods. One of the PA members told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem this morning that this move poses a real threat to the peace process and constitutes a gross violation of the Oslo agreement. He called on the prime minister to rescind the decision.

Referring to this affair, Minister Yosi Sarid said that whoever views Jerusalem as a united city must be aware of turning it into a city of disputes. He who confiscates land without considering the Arabs' needs is pulling the rug out from under the struggle for the unity of the capital under Israel sovereignty, Sarid said. This was reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

Al-Rujub's Hebron Offices Said Raided 'Mistakenly'

TA2704082495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 95 p 8

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] A contingent of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, Civil Administration officials, and policemen conducted a "hot pursuit" yesterday in the midst of an operation to locate stolen cars, at the end of which they mistakenly found themselves in the offices of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service [PPSS].

At noon yesterday the security forces noticed a car suspected to have been stolen trying to run a roadblock near Hebron. The chase into the city led the troops to a building in the al-Hawuz neighborhood. The troops started checking seven cars suspected to have been stolen and then proceeded to the first floor where they confiscated radio equipment also suspected to have been stolen. It was only then that the soldiers realized they had entered the PPSS building.

Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the PPSS, accused the commander of the Central Command of conducting "irresponsible" actions harmful to peace. Israeli sources emphasized that the Palestinians were informed through official liaison channels that there had been no intention to raid the PPSS building in Hebron.

Ministry Rejects 'Embarrassing' Congressmen Charges

TA2704094995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat did not expect the sharp verbal attack he came under yesterday from the members of the U.S. Congress Foreign Affairs Committee who came to Israel to mainly deal with political issues. Shortly after the beginning of their meeting, the deputy chairman of the committee, Republican Congressman William Thomas, leveled harsh accusations at Shohat: You and the State of Israel violate the economic agreements with its greatest and sole ally—the United States. He was referring to a gross violation of the Free Trade Agreement.

A shocked Shohat rejected the charges and asked Ehud Kaufman, who is in charge of foreign trade in the Finance Ministry, to answer the attack. Kaufman totally rejected the attack.

The Americans claim that Israel has not canceled the custom tariffs imposed on imports of fresh agricultural produce, while Israel maintains that the agreement applies only to industrial products. In practice, two

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agreements were signed—a Free Trade Agreement and later within an international framework, the GATT agreement, which cancels all the customs charges imposed on the imports of agricultural produce. The Americans wanted to implement the two agreements jointly, but in practice such a combination makes it possible for the Americans to export California oranges to the Karmel Market in Tel Aviv, which might fatally harm the Israeli farmers.

Ehud Kaufman claimed that the disagreement is over different interpretations of the signed agreements. Incidentally, the United States has a similar problem with Canada, and the issue is currently under negotiations between the two countries. Kaufman told the congressmen that, in general, the U.S.-Israeli trade balance is tipped in favor of the Americans, but the Republican congressmen kept attacking the Israeli trade policy. We find it hard to explain to our constituents why we support a country that violates agreements with us, Thomas said.

At this stage, Democratic Congressman Reagle said that, with all due respect to his colleagues, the Republicans do not yet represent the United States. There is an embassy here, and if Israel acts contrary to American interests, it is the embassy's duty to issue warnings to that effect, he said.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk came to the rescue. There are indeed problems, he admitted, adding that negotiations and exchanges between the United States and Israel do take place. Indyk concluded the embarrassing incident, however, by saying that Israel has violated no agreement.

Ongoing Histadrut Fraud Investigation Updated

TA2704083495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Apr 95 p 14

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special joint team set up by the Histadrut's legal adviser and comptroller will probe suspicions of the use of Histadrut funds in Labor's Histadrut and Knesset election campaigns from 1992 to 1994.

Histadrut legal adviser Yaron Qeydar, who transferred more material to the police yesterday, estimated that serious charges will be brought against senior Histadrut officials, among other people. He noted that the investigation has brought on a wave of complaints and documents, which might open up new affairs of disorders in the Histadrut.

The team, consisting of legal advisers and comptrollers, will focus on all the aspects related directly and indirectly to Labor's leadership primaries, the party candidates' Knesset campaigns, Histadrut primaries and general elections, and election campaigns in local authorities.

Former Histadrut secretary-general Hayim Haberfeld was questioned by the police for more than five consecutive hours yesterday, except for a brief lunch interval, and his interrogation will continue today.

At the end of the session, Haberfeld said he promised not to divulge any details concerning his interrogation, but reiterated his conviction that he is innocent and that the police will reach that conclusion as well.

Gadi Wachs, the Histadrut's education and culture department comptroller, was questioned yesterday about former secretary-general Yisra'el Qeysar's campaign headquarters in Holon. He denied that the department had been involved in any disorders or had covered any candidate's campaign expenses.

Histadrut Likud faction head MK [Knesset Member] Ya'aqov Shamay yesterday demanded that the police investigate the alleged disappearance of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 10 million, part of the loan the Histadrut took out for election purposes.

Shamay said that between March and May 1994 the Histadrut took out a NIS 45 million loan to finance the various factions' campaigns, according to their respective power. This loan, Shamay charged, was three times larger than needed and this was kept secret from the Likud.

Shamay continued that Labor received NIS 24.5 million of the loan and the Citizens Rights Movement and MAPAM [United Workers Party] received some NIS 5.5 million, three times more than their relative power, while the Likud received a paltry NIS 2.25 million.

Altogether, the loans to the various factions reached a sum of NIS 35 million, "and what happened to the remaining NIS 10 million?" demanded Shamay.

The Histadrut's treasury confirmed yesterday that it had taken a NIS 45 million loan out of which it used only NIS 35 million. The treasury could not give any details as to where the remaining NIS 10 million had gone.

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Meeting With Israeli Army Aides Discusses Mines

MM2604114495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian-Israeli Meeting To Remove Mines; Border Demarcation Postponed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Jordanian sources have announced that Major General Tahsin Shardam, assistant to the chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, met the day before yesterday with General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the planning department in the Israeli Army's General Staff, at a Naval base belonging to the Israeli Army near Elat on the Gulf of Aqaba.

The sources said that the two sides reviewed joint security activities concerning the removal of the mines planted in the border areas between Jordan and Israel since 1948. They also discussed the issue of organizing movement through the border crossings between the two sides. The process of demarcating water borders in the Gulf of Aqaba has been postponed until May.

Cultural Accord Signed With Palestinian Authority

JN2604185295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jordanian and Palestinian delegations ended their cultural talks this evening. The talks were cochaired by Culture Minister Engineer Samir al-Habashinah for the Jordanian Government and by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of the culture portfolio in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

At the end of the talks, the two sides signed an executive program for cultural cooperation. They also worked out a joint program for cultural cooperation between the two sides this year. [passage omitted]

Results of Rift Valley Seminar Outlined

JN2604150995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A seminar on developing the Jordan Rift Valley organized by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency [USTA] concluded in Amman today. A large number of Jordanian, U.S., and Israeli businessmen took part in the seminar. During the three-day seminar, water, energy, economic, telecommunications, transportation, and environmental issues were discussed. On the seminar's most important results, our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti held the following interview with Engineer Qusayy Qutayshat, secretary general of the Water Authority and head of the Committee for Developing the Jordan Rift Valley:

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] The seminar on developing the Jordan Rift Valley concluded its work in Amman today. What are the most important results and visions reached by the seminar?

[Qutayshat] First, the seminar on developing the Jordan Rift Valley was organized by the USTA. Representatives of the public and private sectors in Israel, Jordan, and the United States were invited. The comprehensive development of the rift and related proposed projects were among the topics discussed by the seminar. Details of some these projects were discussed, such as the desalination and hydroelectric projects, and the reuse of water, in addition to exploiting and extracting oil rock. During the seminar, topics related telecommunications, transportation, and the environment were also discussed. At the end of the seminar, papers on financing the public and private sectors were discussed. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Court Overturns Decision To Suspend Weekly

JN2604071395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—The Higher Court of Justice on Tuesday revoked a decision taken by the director of Press and Publications Department (PPD), Muhammad Amin, last February to suspend the weekly HAWADITH AL-SA'AH for failing to appoint a fully accredited chief editor.

According to Hanna Niddah, attorney for the plaintiff, the court ruled that while each newspaper should have a certified chief editor the PPD director's decision to suspend the paper was illegal.

Mr. Niddah said there was no provision in the Press and Publications Law that gives the authority to the PPD director to ban or suspend the publication of any newspaper.

"An administrative office has no authority or power to issue an administrative order unless such power is invested by law," Mr. Niddah said. "There is no provision in the press and Publications Law that grants the PPD director such powers."

Mr. Amin said the court's ruling was fair.

"The judicial authority is our only referee in all cases," Mr. Amin said. "We still have not received the court's ruling, but we will respect and honour it and we will implement it to the letter."

On Feb. 26, two weeklies, HAWADITH AL-SA'AH and AL-BILAD, were suspended on the premise that their chief editors were not full members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) since they had not taken the oath.

According to the Press and Publications Law, chief editors of daily and weekly publications should be JPA members. Chief editors of political party newspapers are not convered under this provision. [passage omitted]

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Islamic Action Front: 'Close Jordan's Doors to Jews'

JN2704103595 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 27 Apr 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Islamic Action Front has cautioned against the threats posed by continuing to allow Jews to visit archaeological sites that Israel claims were Jewish places or are linked to Jewish history.

The statement says this continued permission will make Jews see a Torah dimension in these places and will also provide Jews with pretexts that will help them convince their supporters that they have rights in Jordan. Jewish religious leaders claim Jordan is the eastern part of Israel.

The statement warns against reconstructing the shrines and tombs of the prophets Moses, Aaron, and Joshua because doing so could result in taking advantage of these shrines in a way that serves Jewish objectives. It calls for ending this reconstruction.

The statement reads: In order to preserve Jordan and its people and holy places, and stemming from our ideological constants and national interests, we recommend the following:

—We call on the government to close Jordan's doors to Jews and prevent them from visiting the historical and religious sites.

—We call on the sectors engaged in national tourism such as the tourist guides, hotels, restaurants, and the tourism, travel, and transportation companies not to deal with Jewish tourists.

We thank the honorable ones who have earnestly and responsibly played this national role.

Daily Defends Rights of Antinormalization Groups

JN2504125995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "History on the Go"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan has made history twice in the past six years: First, when it introduced pluralistic democracy in its political system in 1989 and second when the Kingdom signed a peace accord with Israel in 1994. The two historic turns may have come independently of each other, but they are not mutually exclusive by any stretch of the imagination, nor should they be.

To start with, democracy as understood and practised worldwide means that people of all walks of life and with different or even opposing points of view are or should be at liberty to defend their respective opinions on national and foreign issues as long as this is done in a manner that does not threaten domestic peace and security. Then, the ratification of the peace treaty with Israel means that the treaty is part of the law of the land and it enjoys priority over all national laws with the exception of the Constitution. Promoting and protecting the former should not prejudice the latter, just as defending the latter should not compromise the former.

Yet, recent developments on the local scene suggest that we are confusing the handling of the two issues as if they are diametrically opposed to one another in nature and practicability. To cite just a couple of examples, thwarting a planned lecture by a former prime minister who has serious reservations about the treaty with Israel smacks of undemocratic policy. In the same vein, preventing a coalition of opposition parties from holding a conference against normalisation also runs counter to democratic norms.

Even though the people of Jordan have given their verdict on the treaty approving it by a large majority in a parliamentary vote, we fail to understand the basis on which people who are still opposed to the treaty itself or to some of its terms can be justly and fairly precluded from saying their minds.

The problem, though, does not rest there. On the legislative level, there are discouraging signs looming in the horizon which in their cumulative effect may give the totally wrong impression about our commitment to democracy. The draft laws on crime prevention and the holding of public meetings without a licence are a case in point. True each and every country has its own peculiar conditions which would necessarily impose certain variations in the application of democratic standards. Still there are certain basic rules on democracy which are universal in character and cannot be repudiated by the stroke of a pen. There is no democratic country worthy of the name which calls for a permit for holding a public meeting except to the extent necessary for maintaining order, unless of course the purpose of any such meeting constitutes a crime. Small gatherings not exceeding a few tens of people are never regulated except where there is a security risk such as the absence of an adequate fire escape.

As we see the issue, this country is committed to democracy and to the peace treaty. One obligation can and should be used to bolstr the other. This is not an impossible mission s long as we remain faithful to the two objectives.

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Hizballah Identifies Suicide Car Bomber

NC2604172595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah today identified the man who conducted the suicide operation in Bint Jubayl yesterday. A bulletin distributed today revealed that his name was Salah Ghandur, an officer candidate [Mu'ahhal] born in Kafr Milki in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He had three children.

Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah held a press conference for this purpose, during which he showed a videotape of the operation and the resulting damage. Judging by the tape, Nasrallah estimated the Israeli Army suffered at least 30 wounded. He pointed out that the operation was supposed to have been carried out one day earlier, but the presence of civilian cars delayed it. Nasrallah expressed regret at the civilian injuries.

The Israeli troops have arrested 40 people in the occupied border strip since the suicide operation, which wounded 11 Israeli soldiers. The arrests were made in Bint Jubayl and the neighboring village of 'Aynata in the central sector of the strip.

According to Israeli sources, the Israeli troops surrounded the two villages and searched homes for a young woman who was with the man who carried out the operation. She left the booby-trapped car a few minutes before the explosion. According to Israeli regulations, it is prohibited to drive alone in a car in the occupied area.

Suicide Bomber Reads 'Will'

NC2704074195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 95

["Last Will and Testament" by suicide bomber Salah Ghandur; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "Strongest among men in enmity to the believers will thou find the Jews and pagans." [Koranic verse] I am Salah Muhammad Ghandur [words indistinct]:

I ask God to enable me to meet all martyrs, including Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn, this great imam who taught all freemen to seek vengeance against their oppressors.

God willing, soon after these words I will proudly meet God, after taking revenge for my religion and for all the martyrs who preceded me on this road. Soon I will avenge all the oppressed from among the sons of Jabal 'Amil and the sons of the intifadah in usurped Palestine. I will avenge all the tormented people in the occupied and tormented zone. God willing, I am a mujahid of the mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance, this great resistance that is not scared by the enemy's planes, tanks, and weapons or by all the support it receives from all the atheist states.

My next meeting will be a new lesson, a Karbala' lesson. It will represent pride for the Muslims and a fire that illuminates our struggle against the arrogant enemy, whose prestige has been broken by the hand of our brother mujahidin before me, by the hand of martyrs Ahmad al-Qasir, Shaykh Harb, Abu-Zaynab, Haytham, Shaykh As'ad, and all the martyrs who fought this enemy, whose image has been smashed by Islam, smashed by the hand of my brothers the martyrs and nonmartyrs.

Brother Mujahidin. We will triumph, God willing. This is certain as long as we work for God, know God, and die for God's sake. No doubt God fulfills his promise and supports his slaves. No doubt God supports the believers and defeats the infidels by the hand of the heroes of the Islamic Resistance.

O sons of Imam 'Ali al-Husayn, o sons of the great Imam Khomeyni, o sons of leader Khamene'i. O sons of martyrs al-Sayyid 'Abbas and Shaykh Raghib Harb. Your jihad, God willing, will be the jihad that will pave the way for the state of the imam of the ages, may God expedite his advent. We will continue the struggle until we achieve the desired goal of attaining God's full blessing. We are of God and to him do we return. May God's peace and mercy be with you.

Youth Announce Readiness To Attack 'Zionist' Positions

LD2704142695 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April, 27, IRNA—A large number of Lebanese Muslim youth have announced their readiness to carry out martyrdom seeking operations against positions of Zionist forces in southern Lebanon.

According to sources close to Hizbullah movement, a list containing the name of Lebanese youth of various ages who are willing to carry out such operations have been prepared.

The sources predicted that the Islamic resistance in Lebanon would launch a series of martyrdom seeking operation in the future. They said the timing of such operations would depend on military tactics and not on political situation prevailing in Lebanon.

Fadlallah Resents Accusations Against Muslims

NC2504162495 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Apr 95 pp 4, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has condemned the Oklahoma bombing "because we reject any action that targets innocent people and children regardless of any motive, reason, or slogan."

In his Friday [21 April] prayers sermon, delivered in the al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd, he added: We note that

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the West in general and the United States in particular are teaching their peoples that a new enemy of the West has been born. This is because some countries or administrations do not feel secure unless they have an enemy to use to convince their own people that they must stand with their government and fight this enemy.

This is what happened with a recent incident, namely the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma. We denounce this explosion and any similar bombing because we reject any action against innocent people and children regardless of any motive, reason, or slogan.

When we denounced the Bi'r al-'Abd explosion—in which the U.S. intelligence service killed many unborn babies still in their mothers' wombs, many children still in the arms of their mothers, many pious women who were on their way back from prayers, many workers who were returning home, and many old and young people—we also denounced all other massacres anywhere in the world. We outspokenly denounced the World Trade Center explosion. We vociferously denounced the many explosions that have occurred in Europe and elsewhere because we believe that there is a line that should not be crosses and which the whole world should agree on, namely that innocent people and children shroud be protected and not made targets for revenge or for the sake of a political slogan or to make propaganda.

We believe that such actions harm humanity everywhere. All people have to work to protect children in their schools, centers, and nurseries. Both Islam and Christianity reject harming children; it is a totally uncivilized act.

We regard this as our policy and we are committed to it. But we ask: Why do the media—both Zionist and American—keep recalling the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon? In many cases when one looks at the nature of such incidents one finds that they are wholly internal U.S. affairs. When one looks at the current incident and the possible motives for it, one sees that the case might be an internal U.S. affair. The explosion took place on the second anniversary of the U.S. security forces' attack on a religious sect's headquarters resulting in genocide against children, women, and men. Hence it would be very natural for their followers in that very country to do such a thing. But as soon as this possibility was raised, they ignored or minimized it. They started saying: There are three Middle Eastern-looking persons. They wanted the public to think that Arabs and Muslims were involved in this act and thus complicate their feelings toward Arabs and Muslims, as is happening now.

The Arab and Islamic community in America fears possible assaults by some American extremists who, incited by Zionists, might incite more malice against Arabs and Muslims. There is concern in Arab and Muslim circles. Similar incidents occurred when people got carried away and unleashed their angry sentiments.

When we see Israel pointing its finger at the Muslims they call fundamentalists, we do not consider it necessary to defend those Muslim activists. Muslims have no interest whatsoever in such an act; there is no political or security benefit from it. Muslims have no problems with the American people. We have no complexes concerning the American people. Our problem is with the American administration, which is under the Jewish influence. The current American president is under the influence of the Jews, who comprise a majority in his administration.

While we reject the hostile policy of the current U.S. Administration toward Arabs and Muslims, we harbor nothing but affection and respect for the American people, whom we hope will be able to live in peace in their country as much as we want to live in peace in ours. We do not believe in harming the people, particularly the children, wherever in the world they may be.

What we want to note at this point is the obvious attempt to make accusations against the Arabs and Muslims. We noticed accusations in the U.S. President's speeches and in some American newspapers against Iran—which has denounced the incident—and against the Islamic fundamentalist movements. We reject these accusations and regard them as showing hostility to Islam and the Muslims. We say to these people: Your claim that bombings are typical of the Middle East shows that you need to read some history. Who was it that introduced this phenomenon to the Middle East? It was Zionism. The Middle East knew nothing of this tactic before the Zionists came here. We read nothing about such acts in our recent or distant past history. That tactic was first used when the Jews blew up the King David Hotel and its occupants during the days of the British mandate. They thus set the precedent for the using for political purposes that criminal act that respects no human or religious principles.

Whoever sets a pernicious precedent bears the guilt for himself and of those who follow his example until Doomsday. But the Western and Zionist media do not denounce Jewish terrorism, which is still active in Palestine and Lebanon and which kills more than one woman, child, or old man every day.

Buwayz on U.S. Talks, NPT, Peace Process

MM2604160295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Randah Taqiyy al-Din in Paris on 23 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stopped over in Paris last Sunday [23 April] on his way to Bandung, Indonesia, from the United States. He gave AL-HAYAH an interview which covered his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his assistant Robert Pelletreau. The U.S. side was quoted as saying that the negotiations so far made it possible to identify the nature of the current problems and enabled

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each side to know what to expect from the other, and that when the peace process between Syria and Israel enters its final phase negotiations would proceed with Lebanon on issues pertaining to Lebanon.

Buwayz said: "My presence in New York was directly linked to the conference of the foreign ministers of the member states of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. That was the first topic discussed but there was room for each country to hold peripheral discussions. I took advantage of my presence there and held meetings with a number of officials."

He said that the discussions with Secretary Christopher and his aides and later with Pelletreau focused on several points. The first was the NPT extension, and, he said, the United States of course favors unconditional and indefinite extension because it believes that that would encourage the other states to join and would give it the chance to persuade some states to join in the future.

He said that Lebanon's view was that it was abnormal of the superpowers over the past 25 years not to have made sufficient efforts to persuade a number of states to join, and an unconditional extension would absolve the superpowers of the duty of exerting pressure to get certain states, especially Israel, to join the treaty.

He added: "We find it difficult to convince anyone in our country that Lebanon, which is not a nuclear power and is not likely to become one in the foreseeable future, is urgently required to join the treaty and is coming under pressure to do so, while Israel, the nuclear power directly concerned with the treaty, is not requested to join it." He said that it is illogical that "we who are faced with the threat of nuclear weapons are requested to commit ourselves to nonpossession of such weapons and to give up our right to self-defense for ever and ever while just 70 km from our borders there is a nuclear center in Israel which could pose a threat to us at any moment."

He continued: "That is why Lebanon insists on its position that the treaty should be renewed provided it is applicable to all. We believe that the refusal by some states to extend it gives the superpowers grounds, ammunition, and material to use in an attempt to persuade states such as Israel to join the treaty. But, on the contrary, if the treaty is extended unconditionally we believe that nobody will be able to bring in any new states."

On the peace process, Buwayz said: "What we heard from the American side is that the prospects for a breakthrough in the coming months are not bleak and that although the negotiations have not produced a final agreement, they did pinpoint or identify the current problems and every party now knows perfectly well what the other party wants and what its minimum limits are. So if there is a political decision to be made, the factors on the basis of which it would be made when the time comes are in place."

Asked if the American side raised the issue of the resistance in Lebanon, Buwayz said: "They of course did not raise it directly but the constant U.S. position is that they want the Lebanese state to calm the situation in the south and to stop the resistance while waiting for a solution, but the Lebanese position is that resistance is a right so long as Lebanon has no guarantees of the liberation of its territory."

He said that "U.S. officials believe that once enough progress is made to indicate that the peace process between Syria and Israel is entering its final phase, Lebanon will be invited to hold negotiations and the Lebanese file will then be tackled, and there are U.S. assurances that the United States will not discuss Lebanese issues with anyone but the Lebanese, especially the situation in the south."

He added: "The third topic raised between us and the U.S. officials was bilateral relations. Of course, there was a desire on both sides to resolve and clarify some matters which resulted from the Lebanese war. I believe that relations are open to some positive development, albeit slow and gradual."

On the Arab boycott of Israel, he said: "On the question of the boycott, we explained that the boycott is one of the consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that an artificial termination of the boycott before the conflict is settled would remain just that—artificial. That is why we have emphasized that real negotiations are negotiations between two parties both of whom hold some cards. To continuously ask Lebanon to throw away the resistance card, the boycott card, and even the nuclear treaty card and to engage in multilateral negotiations is to neutralize Lebanon's cards which would mean neutralizing the negotiations because there would be nothing left to negotiate about. We believe that the resistance and the boycott are the results of a conflict. When the deep-rooted political aspects of that conflict are resolved, such matters will be resolved."

He added: "We believe that engaging in multilateral negotiations would naturally be an indication that the conflict is at an end but jumping over the political conflict to enter into multilateral negotiations would be unnatural. The proof is the present state of these negotiations. Why are they deadlocked and slow, having started over three years ago?" He said that "that is why it was stressed to the American side that a balance must be maintained in the negotiations and that Lebanon should not be asked and pressured into giving up cards and therefore possibly destroying its negotiating ability and seriousness."

On his own position regarding the question of extending President al-Hirawi's term of office, Buwayz said that that is "one of the main options being prepared for, analyzed, and assessed." He said that "the question of

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extension is under consideration and its advantages and disadvantages as well as its possible effects on national interests are being examined. I believe that deliberations on this matter as one of the presidential options are natural. I believe that in any democracy ideas are promoted in the political arena and weighing them up seriously takes time."

He added: "So far, there is more than one view on this matter. The issue is under study by various quarters. At any rate, I believe that any view on the matter should be based on the possible national gains that could result from such an extension."

On the fact that extensions are not popular in Lebanon, Buwayz said: "Any view on the question of extension should focus on and be based on considerations of higher national interests, and that cannot be based on whether or not a view is popular or not."

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Israel's 'Aggressive Escalation' in Lebanon Viewed

JN2604073795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Aggressive Escalation," TISHRIN notes Israel's increasingly aggressive acts against Lebanon and its people and security. The paper says such acts reveal that the Israeli occupation troops want to expand their aggressive policy against Lebanon in order to disturb its atmosphere and threaten its security and stability. Israel also wants to flex its muscles as part of the policy of suppression and terrorism.

The paper says: All facts confirm that Israel continues to stick to that strategy which contradicts all international laws and norms, and is doing so as part of its deep-rooted rancor and expansionist policy that targets Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: With its aggressive acts against Lebanon, Israel thinks it can guarantee the continuity of its occupation of the southern part, pressure Lebanon into accepting its capitulationist schemes, and divert its attention from sticking to the implementation of resolution 425 and its right to terminate the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: If Israel thinks that by besieging southern Lebanese villages and sealing off entire areas in the south, it can pressure the Lebanese citizens and force them to flee their homes, it will only reap disappointment. The naval siege failed to achieve its objectives. Equally, the land siege will only reveal further Israeli provocations. It will also reveal that Israel is acting aimlessly in the dilemma of despair and disappointment.

Israeli Retaliation Against Palestinians Feared

NC2604190695 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 17 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has warned the Palestinian leaders based in Damascus that Israel may carry out acts of violence, bombings, or assassinations against them in Damascus itself, in the wake of the martyrdom operations and bombings that have taken place in the occupied territories.

Khaddam emphasized that the Syrian security patrols are doing their job properly and are watching these centers, particularly at night. However, Khaddam asked these leaders to tighten their own security measures around their centers in Syria, to take all security precautions when moving about, and to watch out for any elements that may infiltrate their ranks and harm them or provide information to the enemy about their movements.

The Syrian vice president made these remarks to Palestinian leaders who were visiting him to express condolences over the death of his brother. Khaddam stressed to them that remarks attributed to him by Washington to the effect that the Palestinians are living their final days in Damascus are sheer fabrication. He added that he had told the Americans that reports that these leaders has assets in U.S. banks are untrue, noting that these leaders are not terrorists, considering the terrorist actions that Israel is carrying out against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Press Underscores Country's Peace Position

JN2704073495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH highlights the repeated Israeli declarations and statements that there is not much time left for progress toward a peace deal, and that the Israeli elections are approaching. When the election campaign begins in Israel, everything will freeze. As for the chances for promoting the peace process in the aftermath of the elections, they might be difficult or impossible. This is how the Israeli argument goes.

AL-BA'TH adds: This argument cannot be construed to reflect eagerness on the Israeli rulers' part to safeguard and promote the peace process. As a matter of fact, this argument is an attempt to evade this process and waste further time. Had these rulers actually been eager to render the peace process a success, and not to waste time, they would not have wasted the years and months since the convocation of the Madrid conference. Similarly, they would not have immersed the peace talks in formalities, side issues, and linguistic exercises. Likewise, had they been eager not to waste time, the Israeli rulers would not have done their utmost to conclude separate and partial deals in violation of the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process. The Israelis have steered away from just and comprehensive peace, the stated goal of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The Israeli rulers' rush is only meant to reach distorted and flawed deals modeled on the Oslo and Wadi al- 'Arabah accords. In the aftermath of these deals, the Israeli rulers told the world public that peace had been achieved in the entire region, overlooking the fact that peace, if it is to be genuine, must heed the interests of all parties to the conflict, and harmonize with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying: Nonetheless, whoever has followed the developments of the peace process reaches the conclusion that it is Israeli rulers who are obstructing the peace process, rejecting its terms of reference, and handling it from a perspective grounded in preparations for future wars and military conflicts.

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For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH underlines Syria's serious efforts to achieve just, durable, and fair peace, which would ensure that the peoples of the region will lead confident, secure, and stable lives, away from all manifestations of injustice, domination, and occupation.

The paper adds: Nobody can deny that Syria has done its utmost to safeguard the credibility of the peace process. Likewise, it has done its best to spare this process any derailment or failure. Additionally, all unbiased and honest observers cannot overlook Syria's patience and perseverance over Israel's maneuvers and provocative tactics. Had it not been for the opportunities Syria has offered for salvaging the peace process from the collapse long schemed by Israel, the peace process would have collapsed and become a thing of the past. It would not have remained alive thus far.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: It is noteworthy that in their statements, Israeli officials have acknowledged that there can be no peace with Syria without complete withdrawal from the Golan, and that there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Syria. Nonetheless, when asked to translate these words into deeds in order to promote the peace process by making an unequivocal commitment to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, they either make ambiguous promises, or declare that they are unwilling to withdraw their troops to these borders. They also complain that Syria is not in a rush, and that it has failed to make the necessary moves to expedite the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: Inasmuch as it is serious and sincere in its efforts to promote the cause of peace, Syria is serious and sincere in its endeavors to safeguard the rights of its displaced persons. Consequently, it is unwilling to abandon a single inch of its soil or any of its people's rights.

British Construction, Planing Minister Pays Visit

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

JN2604134095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 26 Apr 1115 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, at 1000 today received Viscount Ulltswater, British minister of state for construction and planning, and the commercial delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Majid 'Izzu Ruhaybani, minister of construction and building.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Yasin reviewed economic development in the Syrian Arab Republic. Discussions then touched on available opportunities for cooperation between British and Syrian companies in the field of construction and building.

Talks also dealt with economic and commercial relations between Syria, on the one hand, and both Britain and the European Economic Community, on the other. Talks also dealt with possibilities and spheres of business and investments in Syria by British construction and building companies in light of Investment Law No. 10 and other laws that would facilitate and provide the requirements for investments in Syria.

Sees 'Many' Investment Opportunities

JN2704084395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lord Viscount Ulltswater, British minister of state for construction and planning, has said there are many opportunities for British investments in Syria. He said: There has been noticeable improvement in Syrian-British relations in recent years. He described them as warm relations.

At a news conference in Damascus this evening, Lord Ulltswater said: We were accorded a warm welcome in Syria. We had good relations with this country for decades, and we are looking forward to achieving stability in the Middle East. We are also committed to extending the assistance that we can in the construction industry and infrastructure.

He added: I am proud to be the first British minister of state for construction and planning to visit Syria in the past 10 years. He said: Judging by the numerous meetings held with Syrian officials, I believe there are many opportunities for British investments in Syria, particularly in the field of energy.

He noted that energy is a major field of investment. Referring to the power linkage project between Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and Iraq, he said that it is possible for Britain to participate in this project and that investments and feasibility studies in this regard will be announced in the near future.

Lord Ulltswater said: Syrian-British relations improved much in recent years and this is why I am here. He added that trade exchanges were doubled in the past three years. He said: I am confident that these relations will continue to develop.

The British minister explained that trade exchanges totaled 100 million pounds sterling in 1994 and that a record development has occurred in this regard in the first quarter of this year. He added that the strong indications of improvement in Syrian-British relations were represented by the fact that British Airways will resume its flights to Syria in the next few days. British Midland Airways will also make flights to Syria, he said.

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Afghanistan

Saudis Refuse Visa for Hekmatyar To Perform Hajj

LD2604171695 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr. 26, IRNA—The Saudi Government has refused to issue visa for hajj to Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, an English daily reported here Wednesday [26 April]. Saudi consulate general in Pakistan's northwestern town of Peshawar turned down request of a 6-man delegation of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] led by Hekmatyar to perform the annual Islamic ritual.

Daily 'THE NEWS' did not give the reason for refusal to issue visa but said it was done at the time forces of when Hekmatyar's sworn enemy and President Borhanoddin Rabbani were consolidating their positions not only in capital Kabul but in southern provinces of war-torn Afghanistan mainly controlled by Hezb forces.

Reports from Afghanistan say that government forces were seen busy in extraordinary military preparations apparently aimed at launching attack on Hezb forces in southern Laghman and eastern Nangarhar provinces. The demoralised Hezb forces were last February driven out of their headquarters, Chahar Asiab in south of Kabul by newly emerged Afghan student militia known as Taleban.

Taleban Reportedly Blocks Fuel Supply to Kabul

BK2604082895 Lahore THE NATION HEADLINE NEWS SERVICE in English 0640 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maydanshahr—Taleban fighters said on Sunday [23 April] that they were blocking fuel supplies to Kabul in a bid to hamstring the rival military machine of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

"By the order of our leaders we have banned the transport of fuel to Kabul in order to put pressure on the other side," said Mullah Abdullah, a Taleban commander.

Taleban Appointee Condemns Kabul Administration

LD2604164295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the people of Khowst held a meeting in support of the Taleban movement. The report says: The Taleban appointed governor of Khowst, Ehsanollah, and Mowlawi 'Abdol Hakim Shara'i addressed the meeting, and condemned the Kabul administration and its celebration of the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Kabul. He said: As a result of the obstinacy of the Kabul administration bloodshed continues in various parts of Afghanistan. While the situation in the country deteriorates, they are holding celebrations and entertainment programs.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Statement on Mas'ud Forces

LD2604185795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Statement by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Islamic Unity Party; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Words indistinct] of Afghanistan at this historic juncture needs more than anything else measures aimed at eradicating the destructive social animosity from the Afghan nation. But unfortunately, the Supervisory Council, as the greatest cause of social division in the country, resorts to already outmoded experiences which are the product of the ignorance of nations. Taking advantage of the treacherous act of the Taleban against Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], the fascism of the Supervisory Council achieved absolute dominance in the capital of the country which led to the occurrence of the greatest human tragedy in the west of Kabul.

This group embarks every day on the killing of the Hazara people and manages its propaganda in such a way as to, on the one hand, hide its real face and on the other hand, direct social sensitivities in a deviated direction. [Words indistinct] to consolidate its monopoly in Kabul by creating hostility among the Pashtun and Hazara brothers. The discovery of the corpses of 22 Hazara and Uzbek youths near Chahar Asiab on 11/1/74 [31 March 1995] was publicized by the Supervisory Council and its hirelings as a crime of the Taleban [words indistinct]. Among them six bodies were identified as people who had been kidnapped from Dehmazang and Sakhi. Two others had disappeared three days before. The wounds on those bodies were still fresh and blood was still coming out of some of them. The occupation of the west of Kabul started under the slogan "thirsty for the blood of the Hazaras." Since then there has been no security for the Hazara people in the west of Kabul, and more than 10 people are being kidnapped by the Supervisory Council every day and disappear. We condemn this crime and divisive conspiracy of the Supervisory Council, and we also ask all international forums, especially the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International, to take serious actions against the sectarian band of [Ahmad Shah] Mas'ud by bringing pressure to bear on him to put an end to his crimes against the defenseless people in the west of Kabul.

Harakat-e Eslami Leader Holds News Conference

LD2604190895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leader of the Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] of Afghanistan this afternoon held a news conference for domestic and foreign journalists.

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A BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports that at this news conference esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, the leader of the Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, spoke in detail about the country's military and political situation, peace efforts, and the prospect of finding a solution to the country's problems. He also spoke about the role of the United Nations and other international and domestic organizations in finding a solution to the country's problems.

The Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan leader also denounced the Russian air raids on the country's northern regions and warned the attackers that their actions could entail bitter consequences.

Esteemed Mohseni then answered journalists' questions.

Bangladesh

Zia Addresses 'Unresolved Problems' With India

BK2304071195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has called upon India to solve all unresolved problems quickly for the mutual welfare of the people of both countries. This call was made by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when Mr. Deb Mukherji, the newly appointed Indian high commissioner, called on her in Dhaka today.

During the meeting, Mr. Deb Mukherji said that India sincerely wants to build good neighborly relations with Bangladesh. Welcoming Mr. Mukherji's sentiments, the prime minister said that Bangladesh always wants to maintain friendly relations with neighboring countries. She said it will be possible to resolve all problems if the concerned countries come forward with an open mind to solve them. The prime minister made special reference to the water sharing problem, saying this problem is adversely affecting Bangladesh in different ways. She asked the Indian high commissioner to visit the country's northern region to see for himself the suffering of the Bangladesh people caused by the water problem. Referring to the repatriation process of the Chakmas [tribals], she asked Mr. Mukherji to ask New Delhi to (?expedite) this process.

India

Rao's Remarks Concerning Nonproliferation Noted

BK2604151895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India, rejecting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], has declared that unless a satisfactory regime is evolved, it would continue to be concerned about its security, both in the regional and global context.

The categorical negation of the 25-year-old NPT, now up for indefinite extension in New York, came in the course of the Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao's address to the Armed Forces Commanders' conference here on Friday [21 April].

In the clearest articulation so far on the sensitive security issue, Mr Rao said, "Unless a satisfactory regime is evolved, India's concern about her security, in the context of the prevailing regional and global environment, would remain".

The Prime Minister's words have left little doubt that the Government, under the cloud for back-tracking under US pressure, would not alter its basic positions on security.

These, as he pointed out, would include regional and global threat perceptions.

In a direct attack on the NPT, the Prime Minister asserted that the treaty had failed to check proliferation of nuclear weapons in Pakistan and Central Asia.

"The NPT has clearly not helped in preventing proliferation, as would be seen from Pakistan's clandestine activities to achieve nuclear weapon capability, and the proliferation that has taken place in Central Asian countries, following the collapse of the Soviet Union", Mr Rao said.

While Pakistan, a non-signatory to the NPT, is suspected to have used Chinese assistance to acquire nuclear capabilities, the Central Asian states, despite having acceded to the treaty, have seen proliferation of such weapons.

The international community must co-operate in setting up a "universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and verifiable non- proliferation regime" Mr Rao declared.

India was committed to the goal of non-proliferation and is seeking complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specific time frame.

Stepping up the rhetoric, Mr Rao renewed the demand for an enlarged UN Security Council reflecting the contemporary realities.

India, he was confident would naturally find a place in the expanded Security Council. He made these remarks, while discussing the UN peace-keeping operations and India's role in them.

The question of peace-keeping had brought into focus the larger issue of UN reform itself. "If the UN is to secure whole-hearted co-operation from its member-countries, it should be seen as being democratic in its decision-making", he stated.

About the regional security scenario, the Prime Minister told the Commanders that the country has to remain on guard vis-a-vis Pakistan.

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Pakistan has continued its anti-India activities, both by supporting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and by its anti-India propaganda around the world.

Pakistan has "placed itself, because of domestic and other compulsions, in an untenable position in its relationship with India", Mr Rao said bluntly.

As a result of this approach, that country had no meaningful response to India's standing offer of a bilateral dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues.

Article Views Position on 'Fissile Cut-Off'

Part One: 'India's Crucial Role'

BK2604152195 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Brahma Chellaney]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the recent breakthrough at the Conference of Disarmament (CD) on establishing a negotiating committee, a global fissile material production cut-off still seems distant. The UN-sanctioned proposal will have to cross major political and technical hurdles before a treaty can be fashioned. Recognising this reality, the United States is trying to win international support for an interim moratorium on production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium (HEU) for nuclear explosives. India holds the key to the success of the U.S. strategy, and no wonder Washington is trying hard to get New Delhi's support.

A fissile cut-off, or even an interim moratorium, will impose a quantitative cap on India's nuclear capabilities. Yet the Government has been an ardent advocate of a global ban, and co- sponsored the December 1993 UN General Assembly resolution that provides the mandate for negotiating a cut-off treaty. The perceived political and security benefits of the cut-off have not been explained to the Indian public, and consequently a number of questions have been raised on the Government's endorsement of the proposal. So far, however, the Government has not lent any support to the US idea of an interim moratorium.

The advantages of a fissile cut-off to the United States are self-evident. It is awash in plutonium and HEU to such an extent that the stocks are becoming a significant security and safety problem. Under arms control treaties with Moscow, warheads are not being fully dismantled; rather their core pits are being stored. The main US concern, however, is focussed on the huge fissile stockpiles in the former Soviet Union and the inadequacy of material accounting and safety procedures there. The challenges thrown up by the current surpluses are formidable. While HEU can be blended with natural uranium and burned as commercial reactor fuel, the disposition of excess plutonium poses serious technical and economic problems.

Even though the US stopped producing HEU and plutonium 1964 and 1992 respectively, it is a fairly recent convert to the fissile cut- off idea. The idea is almost as old as nuclear weapons themselves, and ironically was first mooted in the US Baruch Plan of 1946, but later abandoned. Non-aligned states in 1966 identified a fissile cut-off as an important disarmament goal and the following year the proposal received Germany's backing.

The negotiating history of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] reveals that a fissile cut-off was supposed to be a key element of compliance with the disarmament goals enshrined in Article VI of the treaty. Although the nuclear-weapon states (NWSs) refused to specify in the treaty the steps needed for compliance, the Geneva-based Eighteen Nation Disarmament Commission (ENDC) agreed in 1968 on an agenda of six items, including a fissile cutoff, for meeting the obligations under Article VI.

A quarter century later, there appears little compliance with Article VI. With the nuclear powers insisting on a right to conduct low-yield tests, a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) is still not within sight even though its verification requirements are far less demanding than for a fissile cut-off. The three decade-old demand of the non-nuclear states for unconditional, legally binding security assurances by the NWSs has still not been met. The new Resolution 984 of the UN Security Council, along with the latest unilateral declarations on "negative security assurances" by the five NWSs, lack substance and teeth. Since 1978, a resolution calling for a fissile cut-off received the UN General Assembly's backing every year with only a few abstentions. However, it was not until December 1993 that such a resolution could be adopted by consensus. The consensus support for the resolution followed President Bill Clinton's endorsement of a cut-off.

Efforts to begin cut-off negotiations at the CD, however, have not gone too well. For one, the NWSs have not demonstrated unflagging enthusiasm for an early cut-off. Indeed, Britain and France, which have acquired a new generation of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) appear sceptical about the non- proliferation utility of a cut-off and abhor the intrusive verification needed to enforce such a ban. China, the only nation still testing nuclear warheads, remains engaged in an ambitious nuclear expansion which has seen its arsenal swell to more than 500 weapons. Eager to build up its fissile material stocks, Beijing is opposed to any interim moratorium.

To the US and Russia, the principal attraction of a fissile cut-off is that it offers the only available means to cap nuclear capabilities on the subcontinent. The two largest nuclear powers, which share common non-proliferation interests, see no other alternative because of the unflinching Indian opposition to any regional approach based on parity with Pakistan.

That India is a key player in, or even the key target of, the proposed cut-off is evident from the fact that the ban will

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affect it the most. Non-nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT cannot produce weapons usable fissile material without stringent international monitoring and accounting. The principal targets of a fissile ban thus would be the three "threshold" states. However, in contrast to Israel and Pakistan, which each rely on a sole production facility, India has an extensive and expanding fissile- material manufacturing complex.

Israel's Dimona reactor has operated beyond its life-span and will need to be shut down in the near future. Pakistan claims unofficially that it is no longer producing HEU at Kahuta. This may be because of the technical problems that have afflicted Kahuta since it was commissioned in 1985 or, as many Pakistanis suspect, because of US pressure. However, if Pakistan has indeed not produced HEU since 1989, as claimed by Mr Nawaz Sharif and General Mirza Aslam Beg, there would have been no need for Mr Strobe Talbott to undertake his shuttle diplomacy last year. While holding onto its five to 10 Chinese-design nuclear devices and surplus stocks of HEU, Pakistan at the minimum, continues to produce uranium enriched to intermediate level which can be upgraded to weapons quality quickly since more than 90 per cent of the total enrichment work would already have been done.

The fissile cut-off's impact will extend to the entire Indian civil programme. Unlike Pakistan and Israel, India has no dedicated weapons facilities and its nuclear military capability flows from its civilian nuclear programme. Energy-poor India's growing civil plutonium economy is linked to its search for long-term energy security. Its limited natural uranium reserves, estimated at less than 20,000 tonnes, can sustain 5,000 MW of commercial nuclear power for barely 33 years on the once through uranium cycle.

Concern about the proposed ban's range was spurred by President Clinton's recommendation for a treaty to halt fissile material production for nuclear explosives "or outside international safeguards". Although the United States later supported the UN resolution that merely called for "banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive purposes", many in the Clinton administration believe that in order to be verifiable, the cut-off will have to prohibit all unsafeguarded production.

Under this maximalist safeguards approach, even India's natural uranium-fuelled Candu commercial power reactors will have to come under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspections because of the recoverable plutonium in their spent fuel. In other words, a cut-off treaty will impose comprehensive safeguards on Indian commercial and research reactors, reprocessing and enrichment installations, and fuel-fabrication facilities. The impact will be similar to India acceding to the NPT.

Part Two: 'India's Wrong Signal on Fissile Cut-Off'

BK2604152495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Brahma Chellaney]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's position is that it will support a proposal for a fissile cut-off that is based on the three principal elements of the UN resolution of being universal, non-discriminatory and effectively verifiable. The Indian co-sponsorship of the 1993 UN resolution, however, may have sent a wrong signal to the world that the resultant capping would serve India's security interests by allowing it to retain a fissile material stockpile sufficient for a threshold deterrence capability. With India seen by the proposal's main advocates as target No. 1, any such ban cannot be non-discriminatory from an Indian perspective especially since it would formalise the Sino-Indian asymmetry.

The issue of asymmetries is a sensitive one and is reflected in the passion it has aroused in Geneva over whether the cut-off treaty should deal with future production or also with existing stockpiles. Unfortunately those countries that wish to go beyond the original UN mandate and tackle past production are trying to look at only non-weaponised fissile-material stockpiles. The enormous fissile material in existing warheads and core pits cannot be overlooked. Efforts to address asymmetries need to look at stockpiles of weaponised and non-weaponised fissile materials. Otherwise a country like India will be penalised for not weaponising. Deterrence, however, is not based on quantitative equality, and a smaller fissile-material stockpile should not undermine any nation's deterrence objectives. Nuclear activities unconnected with the production, handling or use of new fissile materials will remain outside the scope of the cut-off regime. The cut-off will bring India into political alignment with the NPT without affecting its option to weaponise.

It is obvious that the cut-off negotiations are likely to prove difficult. A number of verification-related problems are expected to slow down the negotiations. They include the issue of nuclear fuel for naval propulsion. The NPT and its safeguards permit the removal of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from safeguards for such use, and a cut-off treaty would be hard put to close this loophole. Yet another problem issue is tritium, produced in research reactors that also generate fissile material. Used to boost the yield of nuclear weapons, tritium decays fast, and has a half-life of 12.3 years. A ban on tritium production would be a radical disarmament measure, but far from visualising that, the weapon states want to ensure that the cut-off's verification will not hinder tritium production.

The Clinton administration is now exploring the possibility of persuading India, China and Pakistan to agree to unilateral declarations suspending fissile material production for weapon purposes. A larger international

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moratorium, it is recognised, may be difficult to achieve because of French and British opposition. During a recent trip to Washington, this writer was asked by US officials if India would agree to such a moratorium once China and Pakistan joined in but Britain and France stayed out. Since the proposed moratorium is not to be verified, it will work against India's interests.

While a production halt at India's Dhruva and Cirus reactors can easily be monitored by satellite reconnaissance, little is known about even the location of China's fissile material production facilities. The core concern for India is that a fissile cut-off is not being seen as a measure towards nuclear disarmament but as one more technical "fix" to control horizontal proliferation. A cut-off ought to be linked to substantial reductions in nuclear arsenals, the abandonment of offensive, first-use doctrines, and binding commitments to eliminate nuclear weapons within a specific time- frame. Russia's return to a first use doctrine, the more recent US reaffirmation of a similar doctrine, and China's continued nuclear modernisation unmistakably show that traditional big power perceptions on the utility of nuclear weapons remain deeply rooted in the post-cold war era.

The US-Russian arms control treaties were designed not as steps towards a non-nuclear world, but to stabilise deterrence by eliminating the most vulnerable and destabilising weapons. Even if START is fully implemented by 2003, the two powers will be left with "overall" arsenals. The central issue to the survival of humankind—the future of nuclear weapons—is still not on the international agenda. Non-proliferation's future does not depend on the NPT vote but on the weapon states' willingness to strike an acceptable bargain with the non-nuclear nations.

Russia To Supply Cryogenic Booster Blocks

BK2504130695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia will supply cryogenic booster blocks to India in December 1996. The director general of the Russian Space Agency, Dr. Yuriy Koptev, told the BUSINESS TASK agency that the first operational cryogenic block is to be delivered in December 1996, and from 1997, two cryogenic blocks would be supplied annually to ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization].

Minister Comments on Naval Upgrade by Pakistan

BK2704092895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, today informed the Rajya Sabha that the government is aware of the naval upgradation by Pakistan which has acquired modern systems. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today, he said all developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation. The minister said the Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernized in keeping with the emerging threat perception.

Akash Missile 'Successfully' Test Fired

BK2704034495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The multitarget surface-to-air medium- range missile Akash [sky] was successfully test fired yesterday for the second time in a week from the interim test range at Chandipur-on-sea. Official sources said the test fire was the eighth in the series. The indigenously developed missile is part of the integrated guided missile development program of the Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO.

Defense Department on 'Self-Reliance Mission'

BK2704043795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is working on a hyperplane capable of putting a 15-ton payload into lower earth orbit. This was stated by the scientific adviser, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, while delivering the global Vallab Pant memorial lecture in New Delhi. He said the hyperplane will take off like a rocket and land like an airplane using atmospheric oxygen as part of its fuel. Dr. Kalam said that the defense department has launched a self-reliance mission aimed at indigenisation of 70 percent of defense equipment by 2005.

'Mercenaries' in Kashmir Offered Safe Passage

BK2704090495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir authorities have offered a safe passage across the border to the foreign mercenaries camping at the Charar-i-Sharif shrine in Kashmir valley for over a month. The mercenaries have been advised to gather at a place and inform the SHO [Station House Officer], Charar-i-Sharif. The government will arrange for the unarmed mercenaries to be sent across the border at the Suchitgarh post on the India-Pakistan border at Ranbirsinghpura sector near Jammu. The administration has cautioned the mercenaries that they should desist from carrying out any damage to the holy shrine as it would invite the wrath and condemnation of the people of Kashmir. This statement comes in the wake of the recent reports that mercenaries have planted explosives in the shrine complex area and threatened to damage it.

The government is maintaining a close watch on the situation in the Charar-i-Sharif town in Jammu and Kashmir and will take further action as may be required keeping in view the sanctity of the shrine and the topography of the area. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, said this in a written answer to the Rajya Sabha today. He said the security forces are maintaining their presence in the

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vicinity of the town to ensure that no undesirable elements are able to enter the area. However, there are no restrictions on movement of supplies or people of the township.

Iran

Tehran Cites Scowcroft on Futility of Pressure

LD2604212795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser of former U.S. President George Bush, said that any attempt to bring pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran would be futile.

Our correspondent in Beirut quoted the AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI daily as writing [that] Scowcroft, attending a seminar held by NATO, said any kind of action taken by the U.S. against Iran would lead to the closure of the waterways of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the report, the former national security adviser rejected any kind of U.S.-backed military operations against Iran waged by one of Iran's neighboring countries and said: Under the present circumstances none of Iran's neighboring countries would agree with the U.S. on confronting Iran.

Majles Official on Americans' 'Misconceptions'

LD2604164095 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Majlis (parliament) Mohammad Javad Larijani told visiting envoy of Australia's Foreign Ministry, Robert Larry, here Wednesday [26 April] that Iran looked forward to a world situation free from tension and unrest.

He said the American officials had misconceptions of Iran and that their own definition of the interests of the United States was illogical.

Larijani observed that the Americans were finding themselves trapped into a propaganda campaign that they had themselves launched (against Iran) and were now compelled to live with it.

Larry is the director of Middle East and North African Affairs at the Australian Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Urged Against 'Biased Campaign'

NC2704104895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "A Struggle for Rights Is Not Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Only a thin line separates the concept of terrorism and the armed struggle for regaining one's genuine rights. It is unfortunate that the Zionist-oriented West, while protecting the interests of Jews, cannot recognize the same struggle in another group, the Muslims.

In the case of the Oklahoma City bombing incident, considered to be the worst act of terrorism in the United States, speculations are again pointing to the usual suspect—a country in the Middle East.

No sensible person kills or harms innocent civilians, especially children. One picks up arms when, for many years, one's grievances are not listened to.

Islam attaches great importance to human life, brotherly coexistence, and concern for the underprivileged, irrespective of race, caste, or religion.

Modesty aside, the Islamic Republic of Iran is an outstanding example. Wherever it is said that human beings are suffering, Iran does not hesitate to send aid—aid which could go to Iranians. The West never puts this fact under the spotlight.

Let it be known that to take up arms when all doors for peaceful solution have been shut is not the same as malicious, indiscriminate acts of terrorism.

Forty-seven years after the inception of Israel, Zionists are still building new settlements, ignoring the fact that they are occupying another people's land. They are supported by a stream of money and power flowing from the United States.

Have Palestinians, have Muslims been heard at international forums? Do they have the same power system behind them, feeding them money, technology and intelligence? Why does the West, in particular the United States, expect that this oppressed people, whose land has been taken from them, should accept all oppression by transgressors, presenting them with a bouquet of flowers?

Without clear proof to support their allegations, Israeli experts on terrorism linked Wednesday's [19 April] Oklahoma City bombing to the 1993 World Trade Center explosion, urging U.S. investigators to focus on Islamic activists.

The statements by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas of non-involvement pointed to a lack of motive on their part to commit such a heinous act.

We urge the West to put an end to its biased campaign to uplift the Jews while discrediting and downcasting those who, in their struggle to gain their rights, have come to be seen as mere terrorists. If the West is concerned with justice and human rights, put an end to armed struggle by asking those whose rights have been taken, What is it that you want?

President's Condemnation of U.S. Blast Seen

NC2704105195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Iranian Compassion vs. American Callousness"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] During press conference in Tbilisi, Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told reporters that he thought the recent bombing in Oklahoma City was a criminal act.

He added that despite the negative conduct of the United States towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian officials were not going to stay quiet on this criminal act.

As Americans are always bombarded by their media everyday with unfair images of Iran, the statement should come as a surprise to most Americans who have read President Rafsanjani's condemnation of the bombing.

Americans should compare the humane conduct of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran with that of their officials who have never shown any sign of sympathy for the victims of terrorism in Iran or, for that matter, anywhere in the Islamic world.

On June 20, 1994, a bomb went off in the shrine of Hazrat-e Reza (AS), the Eighth Imam of the Prophet's Household. As the shrine of Imam Reza was crowded with pilgrims, tens of innocent pilgrims were killed and tens more were maimed. Not a single word was uttered by U.S. officials in condemnation of this heinous act.

The perpetrator of this shocking crime was later injured in hot pursuit. In the hospital before his death, he revealed that he belonged to the Iraq-based terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), an organization that has received, despite its shameless role as Saddam's mercenaries, the support of the Clinton administration.

Since the success of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979, Iran has adopted a principled and humane stand vis-a-vis the United States. Iran has repeatedly stated its grievances against the United States at international forums. These grievances go back to decades of the U.S. exploitative domination of Iranian politics and economy prior to the Islamic Revolution and, by now, almost two decades of unsuccessful political interference and even military intervention (Tabas fiasco) in Iran. Among other grievances one may count the freezing of Iranian assets in the U.S., supporting of Saddam Husayn in the war against Iran, and the shooting down of an Iranian civilian Airbus by the USS Vincennes on July 3, 1988.

With the presidency of Bill Clinton, there also began another round of victimization of Iran. The anti-Iranian policy of Bill Clinton gets its fuel from the pure lies of his Secretary of State Warren Christopher who seems to have a personal vendetta against the Iranian nation and who has characterized the Iranian nation in ways that any true statesman would be ashamed to do.

The recent condemnation by President Rafsanjani will soon bring about a new realization for the American people: They will soon realize that the people and the government of Iran have had no enmity towards the American people, and that their anger is directed against the past and present mistakes of the U.S. government and its foreign policy on Iran and the Islamic world.

Democrat-Republican Rivalry Blamed for Oklahoma

NC2704060595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] While some people unaccounted for in the Oklahoma explosion have not yet been found and efforts to find bodies under the rubble continue, the two rival parties in America are seizing the opportunity to boost their election campaigns. The Oklahoma explosion took place a week ago. Many were killed and wounded and many remain unaccounted for. Following investigations and the arrest of suspects, it is now clear that American extremist groups perpetrated this incident.

Efforts by the Democrat and Republican parties, each of which holds some power in America, are aimed at identifying the rival party as the main motivator of the extremist groups and of the perpetrators of the Oklahoma explosion in a bid to turn the U.S. presidential election next year in their favor. They are trying to increase their popularity by accusing the rival party in a bid to destroy it.

The Democrats, who are now in charge of the executive branch and the Presidency, emphasize that the Republicans' strong criticism of the government, in Congress and, especially, in the House of Representatives, with Speaker Gingrich's hot-tempered remarks, have made the extremist groups see the government as unfit and prompted them to take revenge. The Democrats believe that although there should be criticism in American society, some groups cannot understand criticism. By imagining that the government is to blame, they resort to violent means to strike it.

In return, the Republicans, who have the majority in Congress and are preparing themselves to pull the rug out from under the Democrats' feet in the next presidential election, insist that the Democrats' incapacity has led to horrific incidents in America. While criticizing the U.S. Government's foreign policy, they also strongly criticize its domestic policies and programs. The Republicans consider the use of violence by the Democrats to solve domestic crises as the motivator of the extremist groups and the element paving the way for the Oklahoma explosion. In particular, the Republicans are pointing a finger at the explosion at the Davidian sect headquarters in America two years ago and saying it was the Democrat government's approach, annihilating a domestic sect, that led to the culmination of violence in American society.

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Although both the American parties are now trying to blame the other side in a bid to decrease the pressure on them stemming from public criticism, experts believe violence in American society and incidents like the Oklahoma explosion are the outcome of crises for which both the Democrats and the Republicans are to blame. Thus, these incidents should not be considered solely as an element for destroying the standing of one American party. Both parties' positions will be harmed by such incidents; suffering most will be the American people.

U.S. Said 'Isolated' in 'Idiotic Obstinacy'

NC2704103595 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 11

[Unattributed political commentary: "America: An Isolated Avenger"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The CIA has asked that $19 million be allocated to continuing "operations" against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. THE NEW YORK TIMES, which reported the news, made no reference to what type of "operations" the CIA has in mind.

This request illustrates the beginning of a new chapter in the effort to express the inner grudges of American leaders in relation with hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This request is the ultimate in the baselessness of America's political beseeching and begging to governments on the need to observe democracy, to respect human rights, and not to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. The CIA's request to Congress is an indirect confession that the state can express and exercise its spite, hatred, warmongering intentions, rebellion, interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, and support for terrorism; that all are permissible; and that all these characteristics fully describe the American leadership. Finally, this request shows that such hostility in America's foreign relations is customary and that White House obstinacy stems from its psychological complexes.

During the past 16 years America has never stopped its hostility, spite, and adventurism against the Islamic Revolution and has proven this policy in various forms through pressure, political and economic punishment, military interference, and support for terrorism and by perpetrating horrific crimes against the Iranian nation, while feeling a strong need for relations with Islamic Iran and expressing this need through political and diplomatic channels, direct and indirect requests, and by sending out its messengers. Washington feels that during the past 16 years it has lagged considerably behind its Western rivals in economic relations with Iran and has been harmed by this.

But Washington's efforts have often been futile, because no government is willing to sacrifice its national and economic interests for unstable political maneuvering on the international scene, especially when most governments know that the Americans' political behavior toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is nothing but a personal vendetta aimed at compensating for the defeats they have suffered in their strategy on the Islamic Revolution.

America's military interference in Tabas or the downing of an Iranian passenger plane, in which 300 innocent people were killed, cannot be defended by any logical government. Today no government in Europe supports it in supporting terrorists whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of men and women, young and old.

Supporting unbridled terrorism in Iran; hijacking planes; supporting abortive coup attempts inside Iran; extensive military, propaganda, and financial support for the rotten Baghdad regime during the eight years of war and crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran; and the recent extensive effort for the so-called economic embargo on Iran are proof of grudges and are condemned by all recognized international norms.

The Americans feel that they are alone and isolated in this idiotic obstinacy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has found its way in the maze of White House enmities, and such pressure will never force this great nation, which has successfully tackled the most dangerous plots throughout its independence and integrity, to review its stances and views. This will remain proof of the justness of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the history of the revolution and the world; future generations will be the ones to judge.

Need To Continue Struggle Against U.S. Seen

NC2704103695 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Only Pitiless Struggle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fifteen years ago, when the Americans severed their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in an expression of rage over the occupation of the den of spies in Tehran and over the unmasking of their aggressive face, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, described this attempt by the great Satan as an act showing a wolf-sheep relationship and said that severing relations would never be to our detriment.

Last week, when we marked the 15th anniversary of the severance of our ties with the great Satan, we stressed that while stabilizing our political independence, this event made us strive more toward self-sufficiency and was coupled with the awakening of nations and the growth of liberation movements. This shows that America's negative moves against the Islamic Republic of Iran will fail to create problems for our revolutionary country; they are like a divine blessing that will pave the way for progress and the ultimate victory of the oppressed over the arrogant.

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The Islamic Republic of Iran is the frontrunner in the fight against America and Zionism and its special position has led to anti-arrogant movements emerging in various places, thus accelerating the awakening of nations. The Islamic Republic's principled resistance of the treacherous compromise between the Arab reactionaries and Israel will always keep the burning torch of the Palestinian nation's struggle alight. It will keep the Muslim nations alert to the dimensions of the plots hatched by the American Government and world Zionism to extinguish the flame of the Islamic movement in Palestine and the plots to wind up the issue of the Muslims' first qiblah. In the eyes of American statesmen, that is, the leaders of the Democrat Party, tools in the hands of world Zionism, this is no minor crime. The wretched hand of the Zionists can be seen behind each step America takes against the Islamic Republic of Iran; today's American statesmen are repeating the same big mistake made in supporting the shah 17 years ago.

The American Democrats have never understood the Iranian people or their revolutionary words. So this time too another great defeat awaits America.

The American Government's recent attempt carries a clear message for some countries' politicians and analysts, those who have been paying lipservice to talks with America, diplomatic and commercial ties with Washington, and warming toward America; they should have realized that they cannot grasp politics. These people's main problem is that they do not know America or feel terrified and are naive. America remains the same source of corruption and the same great satan about which the late imam talked. That great man's precise and profound analysis has proven his wisdom.

Now, by leaning on this experience, we should review our policy of condescending to America and we should rid our decisionmaking centers of the terrified and the naive. Only a pitiless struggle with America can push our revolution forward; any obstacle to this struggle should be removed.

U.S. Said Trying To Block Transfer of Azerbaijan Oil

LD2604161995 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Oil experts maintain that at present Iran is the best and the most economical route for Azerbaijan crude oil exports.

The experts say although the shareholders of the project for exploitation of Azerbaijan oil are well aware of the fact, they have kept mum over the obvious fact under Washington's political pressure.

According to certain analysts, Washington attributes its opposition to passage of the pipeline through Iran to the development of 1979 in Iran which induced oil crisis.

It is for this reason that Washington does not approve of Azerbaijan's plan to transfer its oil via Iran. Instead the White House has embarked on an all-out effort to convince Azerbaijan to transfer its oil to Mediterranea via Turkey, the experts say.

A political observer who has been closely following the recent developments in Azerbaijan and the oil deal holds the view that since Iran's membership in the consortium would mean giving Iran the opportunity to cast its view on the route of the pipeline, the U.S. Administration using political lever managed to leave the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) out of the consortium.

Meanwhile NIOC's exploration manager, 'Ali Hoseyni, earlier told IRNA that the consortium members at least in short-term will face difficulty in transferring oil produced in the first stage of exploitation from Azeri, Cheragh and Goneshli oil fields. therefore, they are dependent on Iran, the reason behind requesting negotiation with NIOC, he added.

Yet, Hoseyni who is also in charge of NIOC's foreign projects, added that Iran has attached entering the negotiation to Iran's membership in the consortium.

He told IRNA that Iran is able to receive and refine 250,000 oil barrels per day and to export the amount to the world market using the present facilities with no need for additional investments.

Touching on Iran's other potentials to transfer Azerbaijan oil to storage facilities in Bandar-e Anzali, Hoseyni said that by laying a 80-100 kms pipeline the pipeline would be linked to Tehran-Tabriz pipeline to transfer the oil to world market.

On the other hand, former chief of Azerbaijan Oil Company, Sabet Baqerev in an interview with IRNA correspondent in Baku, said that transfer of the pumped crude oil to Tabriz and Tehran refineries via the Caspian Sea and carrying it to Iran's southern ports will be the best way for selling the oil pumped from these oil fields.

Azerbaijan's Decision on Oil Cooperation Assailed

NC2604081195 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Apr 95 p 14

[Commentary by Homeyra Hoseyni-Yeganeh: "Baku's Thoughtless Act"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After months of ups and downs in the words and deeds of its officials, Azerbaijan, despite promises, canceled the Iranian-Azerbaijani oil cooperation agreement and rejected the National Iranian Oil Company's [NIOC] participation in the oil consortium.

Last week the head of the Azerbaijani Republic's State Oil Company stated that the issue of the NIOC's membership in the oil consortium was closed because of disagreement by U.S. companies.

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This decision was made at a time when officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan had repeatedly stated that Iran's participation in the consortium had been approved by all of Azerbaijan's officials and that disagreement by the West could not affect this decision. The Azerbaijani ambassador said in an interview that Iran's participation in the oil consortium showed there are bilateral relations and that disagreement by the West was actually interference in the domestic affairs of another country.

The Azerbaijani president clarified in a telephone conversation with our president that, despite disagreements over Iran's membership, Azerbaijan would go ahead as planned.

Azerbaijani officials would appear to have no say in running their own affairs and it seems they prefer friendship and cooperation with Western countries and American oil companies to good neighborly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

But Azerbaijani officials should know that Iran's exit from the consortium will not benefit any of the agreement's signatories.

The Caspian Sea and its resources belong to all its littoral countries and these countries should participate in the exploration and exploitation of its natural resources. So the agreement cannot be implemented without a framework of laws for the Caspian Sea and without the participation of the littoral states.

Apparently the Azerbaijani officials have failed to acquire a correct understanding of the international situation. The Karabakh conflict and domestic problems stemming from the division of power should have increased Azerbaijan's efforts for peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. But despite the statements by its officials, Azerbaijan lacks the necessary motives to preserve friendship with its most powerful neighbors.

Azerbaijani officials should know that regional tendencies and multilateral cooperation among neighboring countries are determining factors in the promised world village.

On the basis of former agreements between Iranian and Azerbaijani officials, 5 percent of the shares of Azerbaijan's (Socar) oil company would be given to Iran. But with the new decision, Azerbaijani officials have handed this share over to America's Exxon and the Turkish Oil Company.

Reportage on Kyrgyz Prime Minister's Visit

Dzhumagulov Views Relations

LD2704073095 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Kyrgyzstan places great significance on its relations with iran, the visiting Kyrgyz Prime Minister Dzhumagulov was quoted as saying on Thursday [27 April].

Dzhumagulov who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official visit, told the English-language morning daily IRAN NEWS that he is here to cement economic and commercial relations with Iran.

The Kyrgyz prime minister added that the primary objective of his visit is to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

"The role of the Islamic Republic of Iran is of paramount importance throughout the region, particularly within the six-member ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization)," he told the daily, adding that "Iran plays the most pivotal role, since the center of the program is located in Tehran."

The official stressed that his respective country "consistently supports the innovations of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the progress of ECO and will extend our efforts toward the development of the program."

Dzhumagulov remarked that Bishkek foreign policy was not judgemental, "Kyrgyzstan is always open to new relations with those nations who approach it with suitable means for cooperation.

As for regional disputes, the prime minister said that they should be resolved through diplomatic negotiation and added Kyrgyzstan was always prepared to offer its services in a mediatory role to those nations who were engaged in international disputes.

To this end, added Dzhumagulov, Kyrgyzstan is always willing to extend its services for the peaceful resolution of any regional strife.

However, Bishkek would not interfere in civil disputes such as the case of Tajikistan which he described as purely an internal dispute. "This case involves only the people of that nation," the paper quoted him as saying.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD2604183695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov met and conferred with Mr. [Ahmad] Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [the Majles], today.

The two sides discussed setting up a joint committee as well as establishing parliamentary friendship groups.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri considers that bilateral cooperation in various field is a prelude to more active participation by Kyrgyzstan in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. He said: The ECO is a crucial organization and there is a need for its member states to further activate it and utilize its resources and potentials in order to strengthen the organization.

The Kyrgyz prime minister said the opening of the Bafq-Bandar Abbas railway is a positive step toward the

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prosperity of the region and expanding ties between Iran and the Central Asian states. He called for the expansion of all-round cooperation by the two countries in various political, economic, and parliamentary dimensions.

Holds Second Round Talks With Habibi

LD2704105095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of talks between Hasan Habibi, our country's first vice president, and Abbas Dzhumagulov, the visiting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, was held this morning. In this round of the talks, the Kyrgyz prime minister and deputy ministers presented reports on the outcome of the talks with their counterparts about cooperation in various economic, political, law enforcement, and cultural fields.

Habibi said that he is pleased with the outcome of the talks between the two countries. He announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for further expansion of ties with Kyrgyzstan. He reiterated the need for speedy implementation of the agreements reached; and in view of the large volume of documents signed on mutual agreements, he stressed the importance of setting up a joint commission of the two countries.

Dzhumagulov, for his part, expressed gratitude for the highly desirable conditions created for the Kyrgyz delegation in Tehran, and said that the outcome of his talks with the Iranian ministers and officials were very useful. He added: The agreements signed demonstrate the two countries' political determination to expand cooperation. Dzhumagulov stressed that the Government of Kyrgyzstan will do its best to realize the full implementation of the agreements signed.

According to a report of our correspondent, at the end of a three-day official visit, which led to the exchange of five memoranda of understanding between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, Dzhumagulov left Tehran for Esfahan. He was seen off by Habibi.

Discusses Fight Against Drugs

LD2604191195 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Interior Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Madashov, said here Wednesday [26 April] that he has discussed with Iranian officials issues of mutual interest, and hoped that Kyrgyzstan would benefit from Iran's experience in drug fighting, and professional education of law enforcement officers.

He said Iran and Kyrgyzstan had a common history, and it would be to their mutual benefit to broaden their relations in keeping with mutual respect.

The Iranian Minister of the Interior 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said the Islamic Republic was capable of and ready to offer professional police training to the drug control officers of Kyrgyzstan.

In the second round of talks between the visiting delegates from Kyrgyzstan and Iranian officials topics such as closer cooperation between the Interpol of the two countries, their joint fight against trafficking of contraband goods, and smuggling of works of cultural heritage were discussed here today.

Turkmen Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties

NC2704112395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Saheb Fosul]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—During President Rafsanjani's recent trip to India, this writer had an interview with B.O. Shikhmuradov, the foreign minister and vice premier of Turkmenistan.

Regarding his opinion on the trilateral agreement signed between Turkmenistan, India, and Iran, Shikhmuradov said, "I can't say very much about it at the moment, but it is a very good beginning for our trilateral cooperation. It demonstrates our desire to provide territory for the transportation of goods, and developing trade between India, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Europe.

"This is a very good indication of the common goals of Iran and Turkmenistan for acting as a bridge between nations and regions.

"I hope that, in a very short time, we will be able to put into practice the agreement reached in New Delhi."

On whether the agreement might run into an impasse due to financial difficulties, the foreign minister answered, "I cannot say anything at this stage, but the three countries will do everything feasible to make this agreement workable."

Shikhmuradov was asked to throw some light onto the trilateral agreement, explaining any aspect of it.

"Whatever we have signed is also possible to other states. We are open to all interested countries willing to cooperate in projects to expand relations."

"President Rafsanjani will leave for Georgia tomorrow. Is there any plan for cooperation between Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Iran?"

"If Georgia and Iran, either jointly or independently, come up with a plan, we are willing to accept it. We know that Iran has always worked in the interest of Turkmenistan," said Shikhmuradov.

The vice premier was then asked whether ECO could play an effective role in the expansion of multilateral relations?

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"We believe in the Economic Cooperation Organization. I think ECO will benefit the region; it has a framework guiding member countries in the development of bilateral, trilateral, or multilateral relations."

On whether there will be an exchange of visits between the Iranian president and the president of Turkmenistan, Shikhmuradov replied, "The relation between Iran and Turkmenistan is very good. You can expect a frequent exchange of visits, as well as contact between the two countries, at the ministerial or higher level. This year alone the two heads of states have met three times."

Fallahian on Nation's 'Excellent' State of Security

LD2604201795 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 26, IRNA—Information [Intelligence and Security] minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian, said Iran enjoyed an excellent state of security and that his ministry had one of the very successful records during the first 5-year development plan (1989-94). Talking to reporters here in southern Iran Tuesday, he referred to security on the country's borders and blocking of illegal passages as part of the success story of the information.

Fallahian remarked that many bandits in eastern Iran had been granted protection letters. He also said necessary measures would soon be taken to completely close the southern borders and prevent smuggling of goods.

According to Fallahian, the Information Ministry, as part of its duties to campaign against the traffic in contrabands, has identified and arrested several lawbreakers. He added that the Ministry of Information would collect the arms kept illegally by people in some parts of the country because of the threat this posed to national security and public peace. Fallahian asked the press to reflect realities so that an atmosphere of falsehood would not be created.

He stressed that the actual figures of the embezzlement at Saderat bank was rls. 60 billion while the press blowed it up to rls. 1,230 billion which is the total money in circulation.

The minister said there was firm determination to fight against spread of corruption in the country's administrative sector. He also added that many people had been arrested on charges of smuggling antiques and cultural heritage items.

Over 3,000 Youths Unemployed in Shushtar

95LA0130D Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The municipality of Shushtar, despite having conditions favorable for industry, agriculture and auxiliary industries, has 3,000 youths looking for work. The unemployed in this city are engaged in false occupations, peddling and marketing, contrary to their inner desire.

The registration of 1,236 people looking for work since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1994] at this municipality's Office of Labor and Social Affairs bespeaks the growth in the unemployment rate in this city of 200,000.

Mas'ud Chaharlangi, the official in charge of the municipality of Shushtar's Office of Labor and Social Affairs, said: Since the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], 8,000 people have registered for work in this office, of whom 5,000 have been referred to this municipality's labor market, mostly for three- to six-month seasonal and temporary work. He said the number of high school graduates who have registered in this office since the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] is 2,100. He said: Only 35 percent of these people have gone to work.

The official in charge of the Office of Labor and Social Affairs in this municipality said the unemployment rate here is 21 percent. He said: Among the factors leading to the increase in the unemployment rate in this municipality are the lack of jobs in the agricultural industry, conversion industries and intermediate industries, emigration of landless rural people to the city, and also the lack of the needed experience and specialist skills in the labor market. He said one of the problems the Shushtar Labor Office has with finding employment for unskilled, unemployed people is the lack of a technical and professional training organization in this municipality.

He said: The sum of 700 million rials in credits to build a technical and professional training building in the municipality of Shushtar was returned because of the failure to procure the needed land.

Mas'ud Chaharlangi said the lack of a cooperatives office is another factor intensifying unemployment in this municipality. He said: Currently there are only five cooperative units with 79 members in the municipality of Shushtar.

Results of Antinarcotics Campaign Detailed

95LA0130E Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 19 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday the general manager of the police antinarcotics campaign said: Last week Operation Victory One was conducted secretly throughout the country to destroy narcotics distribution gangs throughout the country.

At a press conference, General 'Ali Shafi'i added: The goal of Operation Victory One was to cleanse the areas contaminated by smugglers, deal completely with the reports from the public and mobilize police resources and capabilities to better control the borders.

Concerning the results obtained in the aforementioned operation, he added: When this operation was completed

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more than 5,415 kilograms of various kinds of narcotics were seized throughout the country.

The general manger of the police antinarcotics campaign added: This quantity included 5,269 kilograms of opium, 43 kilograms of heroin, 58 kilograms of morphine, 28 kilograms of hashish and 17 kilograms of other narcotics.

General Shafi'i added: During Operation Victory One 2,232 distributor smugglers and 4,888 addicts with previous records were arrested.

The general manager of the police antinarcotics campaign said 73 firearms were seized during this operation. He said: 31 vehicles were also seized from the smugglers.

He emphasized the fact that since the beginning of the year 1373 117,870 kilograms of various kinds of narcotics has been seized. He said: Through the alertness and sacrifice of police agents, 70 percent of the seizures were made just as the materials entered the eastern part of the country and before they were distributed.

Opium Seized in Tehran

95LA0130F Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 21 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday the Public Relations Office of the Greater Tehran Police District announced: Agents of Precinct 32 of the Greater Tehran Central Region, in searching a home on Abuzar Boulevard, seized 300 kilograms of opium.

Based on this report, when this parcel was seized four smugglers named Hoseyn, Mohammad, Sa'id and Robabeh were arrested and turned over to the legal authorities.

The Greater Tehran Police Force would like to be informed by the martyr-nurturing nation about any suspicious incidents involving narcotics or other crimes, via telephone number 3142322.

Nepal

Iranian Political Delegation Meets With Officials

Mutual Cooperation Stressed

LD2304174695 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala-'ddin Borujerdi, and his Nepali counterpart Kedar B. Shrista stressed the need for further boosting of mutual cooperation in their meeting in Kathmandu Sunday [23 April].

Borujerdi who is heading a political delegation to Nepal, commented that it was necessary for Iran and Nepal as two Asian countries and members of the Non-Alignment Movement to expand bilateral relations.

The Nepali Foreign Ministry official voiced his country's readiness to promote all-out ties with Iran.

The two men also exchanged views on different regional and international issues.

Talks Held in Kathmandu

LD2504205095 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala-'ddin Borujerdi, discussed mutual ties with Nepali minister of home affairs, Shadma Ili [name as received] in Kathmandu on Monday [24 April]. The Nepali minister expressed satisfaction over the expansion of cooperation between the two countries and commented that Iran and Nepal could further expand ties in every possible field. Referring to Iran's success in industrial and agricultural areas, he said Iran could help his country in this fields. He also stressed the need for Tehran-Kathmandu cooperation in the anti-drugs campaign.

Pointing to the necessity for further cooperation among Asian countries, Borujerdi said 30 years of formal relations between the two countries makes the promotion of ties a must. He also voiced Iran's readiness to boost commercial and cultural coordination with Nepal. The Iranian diplomat also met with Nepali minister of local development.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Condemns Siege of Kahmir Shrine

BK2604044895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has expressed deep shock over the reported desecration of the sacred shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nuruddin in Charisharief by the Indian occupation forces. A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that the action by the Indian forces has not only resulted in severe damage to the shrine, but has also caused deaths of a number of innocent Kashmiri people. The spokesman said this brutal repression marks an escalating spiral of violence after the siege of Charisharief and reflects the utter disregard for religious sentiments and the gravest violence of human rights against Kashmiri people. It deserves to be condemned by all civilized people. Pakistan also calls upon the international community to urge India to desist from such extreme measures and lift the siege of Charisharief.

General Staff Chief Receives PRC Army Official

BK2604093595 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi, April 25: Colonel Ren Zhengian, Deputy Director of Bureau of Military

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Equipment and Technology Co-operation Equipment Department of Chinese Army, visited General Headquarters here on Tuesday and called on Lieutenant General Jehangir Karamat, Chief of General Staff.

Colonel Ren Zhengian spent some time with Lieutenant General Jehangir Karamat in his office and discussed matters of professional interests.

Earlier, the visiting Chinese Colonel along with his five-member delegation, met Major General Mohammad Saleem Arshad, Director General Weapon and Equipment, in his office, where matters pertaining to technological development came under discussion. Colonel Ren Zhengian also called on Major General Shahzada Alam Malik, Signal Officers-in-Chief, and discussed matters of mutual interest, followed by a call on by the Chinese Colonel on Brigadier Mr Hayat Khan, Acting Director General Combat Development.

Colonel Ren Zhengian, had arrived here on Monday on a six-day official tour. Colonel Ren Zhengian was received by senior army officers at Islamabad International Airport.

Article: U.S. Ties Moving in 'Right Direction'

BK2604031495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 5

[Article by Salamat Ali under the "Comment" rubric: "Will BB's US initiative succeed?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 18—Irrespective of the euphoric response in Pakistan of her partymen to her US visit, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's [BB] US tour has not been a many splendored thing. But it has not been a disappointment either. She embarked on a journey to seek a new equilibrium in Pakistan's relations with the United States and succeeded in initiating a new phase with potential for a lot of good to this country provided her various initiatives are backed by her administration's lobbying on the Capitol Hill over the next four to six months. Any negligence on this account may cost the country dear.

The Premier's efforts have to be gauged from the time she assumed office when the US was about to put Pakistan on the list of its bogies. It is no mean achievement that she extracted praise for her country from the American leaders she met. Saving Pakistan from the US list of so-called terrorist states was not a minor affair either, though she does not get much credit for it because of a lack of general awareness of the tremendous damage the US can inflict on a targetted country.

Iran's is a case in point. A legislation introduced in both houses of the Congress towards the end of March this year seeks to close down US markets to any foreign firm doing business with Iran. Loath to see the Republicans take initiative in the matter, President Clinton's top security adviser recommended to him, April 4, list of undisclosed options to undermine Iranian economy. Everyone agrees in Washington that Clinton Administration would move to prohibit purchase of Iranian oil which it says, pumps some $4.25 b [billion] annually into the Iranian economy. It also intends to crackdown on other trade with Iran and thereafter pressurise other G-7 countries also to limit their trade with Iran. Under current rules, US companies cannot import Iranian oil into the US but can buy it for refining and sale outside the United States. Well-known is the case of Houston-based Conoco Inc that signed an agreement with Iran for offshore oil and gas exploration. Clinton rescinded the deal by an executive decree but did not prohibit this company buying oil from the existing facilities.

A company executive told this writer in Washington that he had all but signed three agreements worth over one billion dollars with Iran but had to pull back under pressure from the US States Department. He was told bluntly that the Iranian economy already had one of the highest annual growth rates in the world and the US cannot afford to let a fundamentalist state seen succeeding in defiance of pax American. British Premier John Major during his latest Washington visit was described by US officials as in full agreement for increasing economic pressure on Iran.

The US describes Iran as a state sponsoring terrorism abroad and also as a country in pursuit of nuclear weapons. Iran's status as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and even the International Atomic Energy Agency's annual good conduct certificates are studiously ignored. Russia has been warned repeatedly that unless it cancels its $800 m [million] to one billion dollars contract with Iran for building four atomic power reactors in Bushehr [as published], the US will drop its plans for nuclear cooperation. These warnings together with growing pressure through inducements and threats are the basis of Washington's hope that the contract would be cancelled. The threat is blocking of nuclear export to the US worth $100 m. The incentive is a promised permission to Combustion Engineering and Westinghouse to enter joint ventures to build reactors in Russia. The Chinese who intend to sell two 300 MW [megawatt] reactors to Iran have withstood US pressure so far but US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is to take up this matter with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen at a meeting soon. US officials concede that the planned reactors would have no military uses but argue that they would increase Iranian familiarity with the access to nuclear technology and material.

Saving Pakistan from an identical fate, Premier Bhutto has reaffirmed her position as the best public relations person Pakistan has right now. She declared that Pakistan having fulfilled its obligations "under its contract with America" through the cold war and continuing strong efforts against narcotics, illegal immigration and terrorism, had the right to be treated as a long-standing dependable ally. She said bluntly, she had "no apologies to make" for Pakistan's nuclear programme either in Washington or New Delhi or Islamabad. She pointed out

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that Pakistan did not introduce either nuclear weapons or missiles in South Asia and considered its own programme a deterrent against a neighbour with proven atomic weapon capability. She further argued that she was ready to sign alongside Narasimha Rao any nonproliferation arrangement and proposed that the United States should sponsor a conference of the five permanent members of the Security Council and other major powers like Germany and Japan to discuss South Asian affairs to evolve some arrangement in three areas—resolution of regional conflicts and disputes, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms control.

The Premier pointed to the Americans that Pakistan worked with them to drain Soviet Union of its will to suppress, repress and occupy and ultimately its will to exist as an integral state. On the other hand India collaborated closely with the Soviets as long as they existed. Besides, last year, more Pakistanis have been involved in peace-keeping than soldiers from any other nation on earth. Pakistan paid a heavy price for both. She implied that by imposing ban on military and economic cooperation, the United States had achieved nothing so far except painting itself into a corner. While Pakistan was doing favours to the United States, the latter was unable to reciprocate. She did not have to point to the obvious conclusion that this state of affairs could not continue indefinitely.

President Clinton conceded that the ban had not worked and the US needed to recreate leverage through assistance and cooperation on a range of issues. White House officials said that without giving up his nonproliferation goal of persuading Pakistan and India to give up their nuclear programmes, he would ask Congress for authorisation to reopen several programmes for Pakistan, including counter terrorism aid, federal insurance for US private investment in Pakistan and waving off some of the 1.4 m dollar annual storage and maintenance charges on the 28 F-16s held up in Arizona. The overseas Private Investment Corporation is a US government funded organisation that lends to and insures US private companies abroad. It is now immobilised by the Pakistan specific Pressler Amendment. Clinton's promise of working with the Congress to explore a variety of ways to give more flexibility to negotiators on non- proliferation, can remove the constraint and hasten translation of most of the $10.4 b memoranda of understanding signed by the US companies into firm contracts.

All this does not mean that release of F-16s and undoing of the Pressler Amendment is round the corner. Its author Senator Pressler insists that he has been briefed by the CIA that both Pakistan and India have some small nuclear bombs and he can not be persuaded otherwise. This faith in the CIA is irrespective of the criticism of the Agency for its spectacular failures like the lack of awareness of the fragility of Shah regime in the pre-revolution Iran and more recently, what former [as published] Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan described as the total lack of knowledge of the intelligence community of the impending implosion of the Soviet Union. Acting CIA Director William Studeman angrily denies the charge and claimed that the Agency is never wrong. But Moynihan says that while failure can happen and is forgivable, what is unforgivable is the denial. Pressler agrees with Studeman and not with Moynihan and promises to fight tooth and nail any attempt to circumvent the ban imposed by his legislation on Pakistan.

The hopeful sign for Pakistan is that Clinton at his joint press conference with the Premier at the White House told a Pakistani journalist: "No US president would have said this but I am telling you that it is wrong to keep the equipment and also the money." This is a significant statement from the Chief Executive of a country that has never admitted making any mistake. There are no official regrets so far on Vietnam. Besides, speaking to the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, early this month, Clinton said: US owes Japan no apology for dropping atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as President Truman made the right decision.

All this means that Pakistan will have to work hard at the Capitol Hill to press its advantage home. It is a simplistic view of the detractors of the United States that the Administration and the Congress indulge in shadow boxing to fool foreigners. Since all men cannot be fooled all the time, all the leaders who make a beeline to the Capitol Hill cannot be fools. The one-to-one meetings at the White House are no longer the most sought after opportunity by visiting foreign dignitaries. Important Congressmen are so much in demand that Speaker Newt Gingrich turned down Premier Bhutto. He had turned down earlier Turk Foreign Minister Mirdal Inonu [name as published], French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, and French President's wife Danielle Mitterrand. But Bhutto charmed other Congressmen into making promise of support. According to New York Times, she so impressed Senate Majority Leader and prospective Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole that he offered her the use of his office as he collared more than 15 Senators to listen to her. Of particular pleasure to him was her voiceferous support to his initiative for lifting arms embargo against Bosnia. She offered to send as many troops as needed if the British threat of withdrawing soldiers materialised. He said, "I am impressed by her arguments "and shall try to follow up" on her request for repealing the law blocking US assistance to Pakistan. [quotation marks as published]

Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee Senator Jesse Helms after his faux pas of calling her the prime minister of India, apologised, "I have never made a more grievous error and I hope the record will be changed to show that." This blunder is ascribed to the large number of foreign visitors frequenting Capitol Hill. According to Congress staffers, in the preceding three weeks Helms had coffee meetings with five prime ministers, two presidents, one king and one foreign minister. That is too

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much even for the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Much was made by the Premier's critics of the lack of dinner for her at the White House. Clinton gave her only a lunch. The US explanation was that her's was a "working official visit" that rated a lunch and not dinner and that anyway Indian Premier Narasimha Rao, too, had only a lunch. She was preceded by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and British Premier John Major who too had only luncheons at the White House. Of the two nights Major was in Washington, first he had dinner at the British Ambassador's residence with some Senators. The London Times lamented, "if President Clinton prefer to watch a basket ball game rather than greet Major, so be it." On the second night Major dined on fried chicken and french fries in a restaurant just a block away from the White House. Clinton dropped in for a cup of coffee though it is not known if he had a chat with Major.

The upshot of Prime Minister Bhutto's visit is: Clinton and key Congressmen have promised to make an effort to get around the Pressler embargo. Clinton has conceded that there has to be a regional approach to non-proliferation. The US has reiterated unequivocally that "the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory" whose future must be decided in consultation with the Kashmiris.

Clinton agreed that Kashmir is the core issue between Pakistan and India and that most of the problems would not be there had there not been the dispute over Kashmiris. There is to be an official encouragement soon to US@ companies wishing to invest in Pakistan. This fits in with the Premier's plea that Pakistan wants trade and not aid relationship.

All these advantages represent a potential for furtherance of Pakistan's interests but there are quite a few Indian sympathisers on the Capitol Hill. Prime Minister Bhutto's Administration will have to send quite a few emissaries and frequently, too, to nudge the friendly and neutral Congressmen on the desired path.

Pakistan's detractor would like to create issues not only around the existing irritants in the bilateral relations but also create fresh tensions. For instance there is an effort to create hue and cry over the Khushab reactor being built with indigenous technology with local resources. Its plutonium yield is categorised as ideally suited to military uses. Like all human institutions Capitol Hill too is susceptible to persuasions. Moral arguments offered from long distance lose force. Counting expenditure on trips to Washington will be a sort-sighted approach. Also, it would be wrong to conclude that the Premier went to Washington to seek US diplomatic and economic cover for her domestic partisan interest, for internal problems can brook only internal solutions. In the words of former [as published] US Congressman Lee Hamilton, Pak-US relations are at a crossroads. During her visit, the Premier has pointed them in the right direction. What remains to be ensured is that they do not take a wrong turn.

U.S. 'Blackmail' Protested; More 'Defense' Urged

BK2604120495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 25 Apr 95 P 10

[Editorial: "Why Reduction in Defense Budget? Preparations Should Be Continued"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has apprised the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that it will not unilaterally reduce its defense budget. In view of India's massive military preparations, it is not possible to reduce the defense allocation. Pakistan wants to resolve all the outstanding issues, including Kashmir, through bilateral talks so as to enable the two countries to use their defense funds for the welfare and progress of their people.

India has not shown any positive reaction to Pakistan's desire to resolve mutual disputes through negotiations. Instead, India has quickened the pace of its military preparations. Under these circumstances, if Pakistan reduces its defense budget, it means clearly that we are on a suicidal course.

Those who propose a reduction in Pakistan's defense budget perhaps do not have any knowledge of the geography of Pakistan and the situation obtaining on the borders. If the global organizations are unaware of the occurrences in Kashmir, it is an extremely regrettable matter. Under these circumstances, instead of asking Pakistan to reduce its defense expenditure, the world organizations should have exerted pressure on India to reduce its defense budget. Instead of making military preparations, India should try to hold bilateral talks with Pakistan or should request the mediation of any third country to resolve its disputes with Pakistan so as to avert any destruction or devastation in the two countries in the event of a war between them.

According to an estimate, even now, India's defense expenditure is 10 times more than that of Pakistan, and is gradually increasing. By contrast, there has been no increase in Pakistan's defense expenditure during the past several years. A number of programs have been kept in abeyance, of which those involving the acquisition of nuclear technology top the list. India, on the other hand, is manufacturing the Trishul and Prithvi missiles. Even if the international financial institutions fail for some reason to prevent India, they do not suggest that Pakistan should reduce its defense allocation. [sentence as published] It is not a mere supposition, but a plain fact that the international financial institutions have in their possession all the reports published by the CIA containing information ranging from the production of defense equipment to common consumer goods in any country. As it is, if the authorities of these financial institutions do not peruse these reports, it is something regrettable. It is not an obscure thing that the balance of power in the subcontinent is in favor of India. Every day, fresh experiments are being carried out in India. Earlier, India pushed three wars on Pakistan. Is it not Pakistan's

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right to make some arrangements for its defense? In the event of an Indian attack, should the Pakistani people simply slip into trenches and try to save themselves? No, the people of Pakistan are courageous and valiant. They are Muslims. A Muslim is a person who cannot remain indifferent to his self-defense. Besides, the hallmark of a Muslim country is that its enemies should be alarmed by its military preparations. We know that the heroic and valiant troops of Pakistan are capable of giving a befitting reply to the aggression of any troublesome country such as India.

Here, we deem it imperative to say that instead of accepting any proposal or succumbing to the threats of international financial institutions, Pakistan should not only enhance its defense allocation, but should also not allow any slackness in its preparation. Although the Pakistani nation today is divided among various groups, even our enemies know that whenever there was any external aggression, the people united together, proved to the enemy that they are an invincible force, and frustrated them.

Here, we would like to tell the present government that as with other matters, if it deals with defense issues in accordance with the proposals of the United States and the financial institutions that work under its patronage, the nation will not forgive it.

India has stepped up its atrocities in occupied Kashmir. A tense situation prevails at Kashmir's Charar Sharif. According to some reports, India has made certain preparations not only along the Line of Control in Kashmir, but also near the borders of Punjab and Sindh, and it is in a position to launch attacks any moment. We should not remain oblivious to this, but should make military preparations. We should also acquire weapons, ships, tanks, personnel carriers, and other equipment for our defense. If the United States or its allies do not sell these things to us, it does not matter. We should acquire these materials from other countries. For this, we should exploit all sources at our disposal. Neither the United States nor the agencies under its control can blackmail us. If the present government shows any complacency in this regard, the nation will in no way forgive it. Therefore, while adopting a tough stance, it should apprise the world that Pakistan will not reduce its defense budget and will continue its preparedness to meet any aggression. We will not succumb to U.S. blackmail or that of any institution working under it.

Article Examines Nuclear Smuggling Problem

BK2604033695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Apr 95 p 7

[Article by Farid Uddin Ahmad: "New dimensions of smuggling"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Smuggling is now a universally accepted form of trading. It recognises no state boundaries. The trade has its own ways and methods, dealing from eatables to apparels, jewellery, gold and electronic gadgets to highly sophisticated equipment. Weapons, explosives and high tech items which are apparently kept under high security fences are within the reach of smugglers. Some do routine business while more resourceful and dare devils can arrange things needed on order from any part of the world. Deals are subject to negotiation depending upon the crisis involved, availability of the material and price itself. Expanding communication facilities of this last quarter of the century has made their job more easy.

A recent addition to this trade is the nuclear materials consisting of enriched uranium and plutonium. Uranium and plutonium are the two elements that fuel and power all the nuclear activities like the generation of electricity or as weapon component. Uranium, a radioactive element is found in nature but neither abundantly nor in pure form. From the ore, initially uranium 238 is obtained in small quantities. To make it suitable as fuel in power reactors or fit to be of bomb grade it has to go through a further highly complex refining process. The highest enriched uranium 235 is suitable for bomb and other nuclear weaponry.

Besides being cost intensive the refining process is highly complex and difficult. But once the stage of uranium processing is attained the path leading to higher attainable targets is relatively easy. The other element plutonium is not found in nature but is a byproduct in the uranium processing plant. This can be equally used in bomb making. The storage and transportation of plutonium is rather easier than highly radioactive uranium-235 so that a small quantity, say, a few kgs can be carried a in suitcase or personal handbag, of course properly shielded.

Upto 1970 or so the nuclear technology and production of fissionable materials remained within the ambit of the superpowers of the time. They barred other nations from acquiring this technology under the pretext that these were horrifying weapons. The strong veil of secrecy, however, began to break and a number of new emerging and aspiring nations managed to acquire the technology. Some through their consistent efforts while others through covert and clandestine methods.

Countries like Libya, Iraq and also Iran have ambitious plans to make their own nuclear weapons as symbol of pride and also as a deterrent force against their neighbours and adversaries. But the complex nature of the required technology came in their way to cover the first halfway. Here now comes the underworld smugglers and agents to the help of such countries that need this precious commodity.

Before the demise of former Soviet Union the clandestine movement of nuclear mass was almost unheard except in a few cases like an illegal shipment of several tons of heavy water to India, a shipment of about 200 tons of uranium from Belgium to Israel, theft of a significant quantity of bomb grade uranium from

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nuclear facilities in USA by the Israeli agents and a gun point robbery of several hundred kgs of uranium from a South African plant to an unknown destination.

But since the break-up of the old Soviet Union and abandonment of the weapon race that was the legacy of the cold war nuclear smuggling is much in the news. Sporadic cases began to surface since 1990 with gradual increase in frequency mostly in W European countries. The western media did not play it much until the United States had time after crippling the nuclear installations in Iraq when it turned itself towards North Korea and Pakistan to halt their modest nuclear programme.

In August, 1994, about 10 ounce of plutonium was intercepted at Munich airport. The western media immediately flashed it in the news headlines declaring Pakistan to be its ultimate consignee. Later investigations proved the allegations to be false. In another border incident as late as October, 94, 160 tons of uranium loaded in nine containers was detained by Russian borderguards. The consignment was destined for USA without any authorisation and so was sent back to Tajikistan. And now agents in India too have joined the game when only a couple of months ago four persons were arrested while trying to smuggle out 2.5 kgs semi-processed uranium. Indian officials are looking for another 100 kgs of missing uranium.

Except one isolated case from India most of the nuclear smuggling is originating from Russia and states born out of former USSR. With the collapse of Soviet Union the entire scientific research and development structure has gone into disarray. The total spendings on science in Russia has dropped from 6 percent of GNP in 1991 to 3 percent in 1993. There is no money left in Russia for science. About 30,000 scientists, engineers and scientific personnel have migrated to USA, Europe and Israel. Another 20,000 or so have left their jobs and have settled on other jobs inside Russia. Those who are on job in scientific institutions are struggling for their existence. Salaries of some scientists and engineers have come down to as low as 6 dollars a month. They are scrambling to keep themselves alive.

Some of them have even joined the other flea market vendors in Moscow's underground passageways. The desperate class of drifters are capable of exporting their weapons, expertise and even with the help of organised crime, bomb materials to outlaw regimes. The most pernicious short term danger comes from a horde of criminals and corrupt officials who are eager to sell their country's nuclear stocks to foreigners for hard currency and to supplement their income. These wheeler-dealers know that where Iraq, Iran, Libya and other nuclear aspirants are concerned plutonium and uranium are more than worth their weight in gold.

Tolls of uranium and plutonium is piling up in Russia and its former republics and in USA from thousands of weapons being dismantled under START-I and START-II with an undecided disposal. These are more valuable as bomb component than as fuel and could therefore be subjected to theft or sale by underpaid and demoralised security men.

Two factors make such sales increasingly possible. First is the simultaneous growth of the get rich quick criminals class and the miserably paid nuclear custodians, scientists, engineers and personnel who are supposed to guard fissionable materials. The underworld merchants have any amount of money for these workers who try to make their ends meet on perhaps 12 dollars a month. Second, the former USSR's once tightly sealed borders are now so porous that a thriving black market has taken root all along where everything from electronics to stolen cars move with near freedom.

Article Rejects Nuclear Security Assurances

BK2604025595 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by retired General Khalid Mahmud Arif: "Symbolic security assurances"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and discrimination-cum-unfulfilled pledges go together. Its 62 member states that initially joined the treaty on July 1, 1968 and the world at large were given a firm commitment (Article 6) to "work in good faith" toward "general and complete (nuclear) disarmament under strict and effective international control."

Since then the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) have consistently worked on two tracks: one, to hedge from their own treaty obligations of achieving universal nuclear-weapon disarmament, and, two, to selectively employ pressure tactics and advise the Non- Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) to accede to this treaty.

The double standards were evident. Israel's efforts in acquiring nuclear weapons were surreptitiously aided. The South African nuclear-weapon activity was silently covered up. While India's vast weapon-related nuclear and missile programmes drew mild criticism, Pakistan was singled out for punishment for her modest effort in this field. Also, some NPT member states were denied nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, guaranteed to them under the treaty. In short, the NPT became a vehicle to promote the national interests of a few countries at the cost of others.

Notwithstanding such contradictions in their own conduct, the NWS have launched a media and diplomatic blitzkrieg to secure an indefinite extension of the NPT during the on-going Extension Conference that started its three-week long deliberations in New York on April 17, 1995. Without prejudging the outcome of the extension conference one thing stands out clearly—the Western NWS suffer from a credibility gap and the gulf between their words and deeds is too wide to hide.

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The discriminatory NPT divides the world into a group of five Brahman states and relegates all others to the status of untouchables. It creates a new brand of neoimperialism in which the NWS retain the deadly weapons to safeguard their own security interests, as perceived by them, while the NNWS are being advised to accept such security assurances that the nuclear-have countries, in their "superior" wisdom, may like to offer them. Their own declared nuclear policies cast serious doubts on their real intentions. The US maintains it would not use nuclear weapons against any NNWS.

However, this policy is subject to a host of such provisos which, in fact, keeps all its options open. The UK and France reserve their right to employ nuclear weapons in a first-strike role. Russia follows a first-use policy. China is the only NWS that has unilaterally pledged on no-first-use. It is no secret that despite the provisions in the NPT, the western NWS have no desire to move toward a zero nuclear-weapon regime for themselves. China is prepared to do so provided the other four NWS follow the same route. The only sufferers are the NNWS as if their security does not matter.

The concept of a few states retaining the nuclear-weapons and others being asked to accept the vague security assurances is contained in the Security Council Resolution 255 approved years ago. This was at best a non-serious effort. To allay the fears of the NNWS, and to pave the way for an indefinite extension of the NPT, the five nuclear-weapon powers have proposed to improve the language of Resolution 255, providing negative and positive assurances to the NNWS. These cosmetic changes remain well short of legally binding commitments. That even these may mostly be honoured in their breach is inherent in their vagueness.

This raises a host of vital questions. What is the worth of the assurances being given? Will they satisfy the legitimate security concerns of the have-not states? What is the guarantee of their timely implementation to the satisfaction of the NNWS? Is the Security Council capable of providing security to its member countries when one veto vote can frustrate the effort? Does the UN Security Council inspire confidence in the Third World countries? The answers to most of these questions provides a chilling thought. The past experience shows that the UN acted firmly only when the vital interests of the western countries, as perceived by them, were affected.

The history of human conflict tells us not to rely too much on external assurances. In the game of power, promises are invariably made by power-wielders with a hidden motive and broken by them at will. Security assurances, like tranquilisers, lull a patient but they do not cure the disease. External assurances can at best provide borrowed security, terminable without notice. Those who chase mirages in the burning deserts in search of water invite their own destruction. A country that cannot provide security to itself runs the risk of losing its freedom.

Great Britain and France wish to retain their nuclear arsenal despite the fact that NATO provides them a security cover and their strategic ally, America, regards Europe as its own first line of defence. Likewise both the major adversaries turned friends, USA and Russia, plan to retain their nuclear-weapons despite the end of the cold war. Even Israel, whose security is virtually underwritten by the US-led West, allegedly possesses a large stockpile of nuclear weapons. China has legitimate reasons to keep its nuclear weapon arsenal so long as her security is threatened by its adversaries. These illustrations show that external assurances are a bonus, not a substitute, to inherent capability. Vague, unimplementable and dicey assurances are in fact being offered by the western countries to divert the attention of the NNWS from the real issue of total and verifiable elimination of their own nuclear weapons and their allied facilities and materials.

The whole edifice of the global and regional security will remain discriminatory if the NPT becomes a permanent international arrangement. Peace and security are the common needs of the entire world. These goals can best be achieved by peacefully resolving all, or at least, primary regional disputes. The world needs security not only from the threat of use or the use of nuclear- weapons but also from all other weapons of mass destruction and conventional forces. The weapon of the nuclear blackmail has been used too frequently in the past, always against the have-not states. Regretfully, the UN did no more than becoming a silent spectator on every such occasion.

The world and the UN have long been the prisoners to the veto power of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It generates a strong reaction in the Third World countries which expect the UN to promote peace; not because its past performance is studded with miracles but because at present no better option is available to them. Its image dipped low, very low, in the post-Cold War era when the Security Council virtually became an adjunct department of a single state. This has created doubts about the usefulness of an organisation and fails to inspire confidence in the majority of its member states. The UNO [UN Organization], as presently structured, lacks the authority and the credibility to meet the expectations of a majority of its member states. It will indeed be foolish for the NNWS to rely upon the resolutions passed by it. Their implementation will invariably be decided in the capitals of the Big Five powers, not in the halls of the UN.

The ineffectiveness of the UN is writ large on issues like Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti and Iraq. It has worked subserviently to the wishes of those who control its purse; this may influence its actions in the future. The world needs this organisation provided it is appropriately restructured with the veto right repealed.

The Big Five powers are unwilling to give legally binding and irrevocable security guarantees that override their internal legislation and the veto right in the Security Council. If nuclear weapons are ever used in the future,

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the UN may well be engaged in a post-operation academic discussion criticising the aggressor or sympathising with the victim. This will provide no relief to the vanquished.

The world needs legally binding commitments from the NWS to achieve total and unconditional elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in an agreed timeframe. Nothing short of this will promote durable nuclear peace.

Security assurances are the brainchild of nuclear monopolists to perpetuate their domination. The nuclear horrors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki would not have occurred if Japan had the capability to retaliate in the same manner. Europe has enjoyed peace since 1945 because the cold war antagonists were not prepared to risk the danger of being attacked. The weapons of horror may either be discarded or retained by the countries without discrimination. The concept of "I retain the gun and you live on an assurance of my good behaviour" is self-serving and unacceptable to nations which cherish their sovereignty and freedom.

Daily Views Outcome of Bangladesh Premier's Visit

BK2604154095 Lahore JANG in Urdu 26 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Visit to Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh have signed two agreements for the protection of bilateral investments and the promotion of collaboration in the agricultural sector. The agreements were signed by the Pakistani prime minister, Banazir Bhutto, and her Bangaldeshi counterpart, Begum Khaleda Zia, after their meeting and discussions on various issues. During their hour-long meeting, the two leaders had detailed discussion on the return of the 250,000 stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh and the promotion of bilateral cooperation in trade and economic sectors. Speaking at the dinner hosted by her in honor of the visiting Bangladeshi prime minister, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed her concern over the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said: We have inherited certain unresolved problems. We expect that in a spirit of political determination and friendship, these problems will be resolved. A cordial atmosphere is needed to resolve these problems. According to Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, the factors hampering the return of the stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh include financial difficulties.

The Bangladesh prime minister is on a visit to Pakistan at a time when relations between Pakistan and India are rather tense due to the Kashmir dispute and the fact that the Indian authorities are making threats of war against Pakistan and directing their armed forces to be prepared against it. On top of this, there are only a few days before the summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] is held. In lieu of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari will lead the Pakistani delegation at the conference. The guidelines of the SAARC, which stipulate that political disputes among the member countries cannot be raised at the summit-level or any other level of the conference, have affected the organization's usefulness. Nearly all the member countries have differences with India over some problem or other. And the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India has assumed the shape of an explosives dump. Therefore, as long as serious problems and differences of this sort exist among member countries, no tangible and noteworthy performance can be expected from that organization. Of course, as far as bilateral relations are concerned, both Pakistan and Bangladesh—which formed the eastern part of Pakistan until December 1971—are suffering similar problems. Moreover, it is also true that certain problems that surfaced after the secession remain unresolved even today. Of them, the problem of the 250,000 stranded Pakistanis is the most crucial one. As stated in his briefing by the Pakistani foreign secretary, financial difficulties form a major part of the problems impeding the return of the stranded Pakistanis. The expectations that certain Muslim countries will provide funds to meet the expenses of their return also remains unfulfilled. According to some reports, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told her Bangladeshi counterpart that the plan for the return of the stranded Pakistanis will be reviewed once the situation in Karachi improves. It is a matter of satisfaction that the two leaders acknowledged the existence of the unresolved problems between the two countries and agreed on the need to resolve them. In fact, it is realistic and positive thinking. Given that the two countries have inherited certain unresolved problems, acknowledgment of their existence will provide a base for their solution. The two agreements signed between the two countries for the protection of bilateral investments and the enhancement of cooperation in the agricultural sector will help in stabilizing bilateral relations. However, as stated by the Bangladeshi prime minister, cooperation between the two countries in trade and economic fields has not reached a high level. The need of the hour is to promote cooperation in these sectors. Regarding their past relations, identification of each other's needs and the formulation of plans to promote trade and economic cooperation are relatively easy tasks for the two countries. Let us hope that both of them will pay full attention to promoting cooperation and partnership in these sectors.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Statement on Resumption of Struggle

BK2704045295 (Internet) CIRCLE Newsletter in English 0130 GMT 27 Apr 95

["Text" of statement by LTTE Political Section in Jaffna on 23 April—received via internet]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is mindful of the international community's concern in sustaining the peace process in Sri Lanka. The Tamil people themselves have the biggest stake in the peace process, because of continuous peaceful life had been denied to them since 1956 when the first mob attacks on them began. Peoples and nations have historical memories which necessarily shape their thinking and attitudes.

When Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga became Prime Minister the LTTE made an unprecedented gesture in welcoming a Sri Lankan leader's election for the first time. On her assumption of office as President the LTTE declared a unilateral cease-fire and called for a peace talks.

When peace talks began, it was understood that priority would be given to attending to the human needs of the near 1 million people in the north who had suffered privation, lost their livelihood, living as displaced people, due to the war. In fact, the initiative for the agenda in the talks came from the government itself.

The fact that this was inspired by other motives became clear as the talks dragged on. One can understand a ruling party trying to woo the Tamil people over the heads of a liberation movement fighting for their rights. It can be a useful ploy worth attempting. But to describe the granting of basic human rights of life and livelihood to a section of the country's own citizens as "concessions" and "privileges" is surely a hark back to the same attitude adopted by the Sinhalese governments in the past.

In going further to say that "enough concessions and privileges have already been given to the Tamils and further giving in of anything will endanger the national security", as President Kumaratunga did in her letter to LTTE leader Prabhakaran clearly shows that she equates even such "concessions" with military interests.

The LTTE had from the very inception, called for a mutual declaration of a cease-fire. This is on record. To prolong the cessation of hostilities without moving into the next step of a permanent cease-fire, is obviously a way of keeping the military threat alive. Since the cessation of hostilities does not denote the end of a state of war, the LTTE cannot afford to drop it's guard at any given time.

Even on the question of the lifting of the economic embargo (which was the only positive result to emerge out of the prolonged talks) the government was guilty of bad faith on two counts: While a propaganda blitz was launched from Colombo and international media, and directed at donor countries, that the economic embargo was fully lifted, not even a fraction of what was agreed and gazetted, has been reaching the Tamil people in the north. The military authorities at the Vavuniya check points have been seeing to that! In Biblical language, it was like the voice of Esau and the hand of Jacob!

Count Two: The government has been using the relaxing of the embargo and fishing ban as a bargaining chip; as was proved even by the recent acts of the government in re- imposing the economic embargo and the ban on fishing, soon after the LTTE withdrew from the peace process. The latest announcement from the government is that the Kilaly route from the peninsula has also been made out of bounds, which means helicopters are free to strafe all boats that use this crossing.

There has been also a propaganda made out from the government side that the LTTE has been making new demands from time to time. Asking old dues is not making new demands. What use is there when the government fails to implement it's own promises? Is the government going back on it's own agenda not a new demand?

The Kumaratunga government has still not deviated from the policy of it's predecessor governments in bottling up the peninsula with a ring of army and navy camps. The request of the LTTE to remove at least the Pooneryn army camp has been consistently rebuffed. In imposing a ban on fishing in Northeast waters, the government is guilty of denying the freedom of movement to the Tamil people both by land and sea. This is another denial of basic human rights as enshrined in the UN charter.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's hesitation in sending officially accredited representatives of the government for these talks, and instead in sending personal emissaries who have neither political authority nor government status, has itself made the peace process spurious. Apart from revealing lack of serious intent, it frees the Sri Lankan government, in the present or in the future, of a committal towards whatever political settlement that is reached. A case in point was Thimpu talks in 1985 when the then President J.R. Jayawardene sent his brother H.W.Jayawardene, a lawyer who held no position in the government.

The LTTE announcement of the withdrawal from the peace process was not unexpected as is being made out. As early as March 16, in releasing 16 14 [figure as received] prisoners of war, LTTE leader Pirabakaran sent a letter to President Kumaratunga specifically stating that if the outstanding issues between the two parties were not resolved before March 28, they would be compelled to take a decision to withdraw from the peace process. The government chose to ignore the deadline. Realizing that the time frame might be too short, and particularly because of what the LTTE noted to be "a positive response" from the President indicating the lifting on the ban on fuel and fishing rights, the LTTE put off the deadline by three weeks for April 19.

On April 10, when the fourth round of talks ended without any positive results, head of the delegation Thamilchelvan reiterated the LTTE position that under the circumstances, they would be compelled to withdraw from the peace process.

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There has been an accusation made against the LTTE that we were not prepared for talks on a political settlement. This is not true. What was constantly emphasized was that while talks towards a political settlement could take a long period of time, the immediate day to day problems of the people had to be resolved here and now, as we agreed to on the agenda. It must be mentioned here that while the government has been talking these past few months about a "political package" that was ready, neither LTTE nor the country has yet been told what it contains. On the other hand, the LTTE had, through it's spokesmen in Jaffna, and even through interviews with the Colombo media, spelt out the four basic principles of a political solution that would be acceptable to them.

A liberation movement necessarily suffers from a major disability in getting it's voice heard through the mammoth weight of a government's propaganda machinery. But should the truth get submerged on the basis that the louder the voice, the greater its credence?

In deciding to withdraw from the agreement on cessation of hostilities, the LTTE has not closed its mind, or its doors towards an eventual, durable peace. At the same time it cannot drop its guard, as long as the Sri Lanka government persists with its hidden agenda of a military option. Creating the necessary space for Peace rests on any new initiatives from the Sri Lanka government.

[Signed] Political Committee Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

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